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ARAB TIMES

NO. 7137 TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1988 JAMADI AL-AWWAL 15, 1408 AH 18 PAGES 150 FILLS

THE WORLD THIS MORNING

King Hassan is ill
RABAT, (Reuters): King Hassan of Morocco is suffering from a high fever and influenza and his physicians have recommended that he take a complete rest for at least 24 hours, the palace said today.

Bheel found dead
NEW DELHI, (Reuters): A reformed Indian bandit, Karna Ram Bheel, whose seven-foot-10-inch (238cm) long mustache earned him a place in the Guinness Book of World Records has been found beheaded near his home, news agency reports said.

400 detained
ASSIUT, (Reuters): Police said yesterday they had arrested 400 suspected convicts and raided three illegal arms factories in a swoop on mountains south of Cairo.

Jail for spying
ISLAMABAD, (Reuters): A French journalist Alain Guillo, who entered Afghanistan with Muslim rebels was sentenced yesterday to 10 years in jail for spying, the official Kabul Radio said.

Flight recorder
IZMIR, (Reuters): Turkish investigators combing the wreckage of a West German aircraft in which 16 people died found a flight recorder yesterday which could confirm their theory that sabotage was not to blame.

Planes escorted
KARACHI, (Reuters): The Pakistani Air Force provides escorts to protect civilian airliners flying close to the Afghan border, Pakistani civil aviation sources said yesterday.

Arafat in Rabat
RABAT, (Reuters): PLO leader Yasser Arafat arrived in Morocco yesterday to take part in a meeting of Islamic ministers to discuss violence in the Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

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آج کے اردو صفحات میں
مغربی ممالک اور اسلامی ممالک کے
اقتصادی اور سیاسی حالات پر
گہرا اور مفید تبصروں کے ساتھ
کئی نئے اور دلچسپ مضامین
اور کئی نئے اور دلچسپ مضامین
اور کئی نئے اور دلچسپ مضامین

WEATHER

CLOUDY to partly cloudy weather with light to moderate variable to southerly wind.

State of sea: moderate to rough

High water: 11.00 am, 2.00 pm

Low water: 7.00 am, 7.30 pm

Sunrise: 6.43 am

Sunset: 5.03 pm

Maximum temperature recorded:

Kuwait: 15°C 59°F

Ahmed: 14°C 57°F

Falaka: 14°C 57°F

Maximum temperature expected:

Kuwait: 17°C 63°F

Ahmed: 15°C 59°F

Falaka: 15°C 59°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 85 per cent

Ahmed: 61 per cent

Falaka: 89 per cent

Maximum humidity expected:

Kuwait: 89 per cent

Ahmed: 90 per cent

Falaka: 95 per cent

Minimum temperature recorded:

Kuwait: 7°C 45°F

Ahmed: 8°C 46°F

Falaka: 7°C 45°F

Kuwait expresses anger Arabs condemn Israeli expulsions

AMMAN, Jan 4, (Reuters): The Arab world has fiercely condemned Israel's plan to expel nine Palestinians accused of inciting violence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Fresh troubles were today reported in West Bank, where tear gas and rubber bullets were fired.

Kuwait expressed anger today at Israel's decision to expel nine Palestinians from the occupied territories and said there were plans to fight the move.

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabab Al Ahmad told reporters Israel was aiming to "empty the Arab land of its Arab residents."

Contacts

He said there had been contacts both in the Arab world and outside the region to "confront the Zionist decision and to try to abort it in order to keep the Palestinians in their lands."

He did not elaborate but said Kuwait was concerned about the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and would do all it could to help the Palestinians.

Brussels junior Foreign Office Minister David Mellor, called yesterday for Israel to end its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and said Britain would press for an international Middle East peace conference.

In Jerusalem's walled old city, Mellor toured the Al Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third holiest shrine, and told Muslim leaders he would stress British support for an international conference when he meets Israeli officials later this week.

Concern

"Our concern is that people in the occupied territories should have a decent future and they cannot have a decent future under the present arrangements. The status quo is not an option," he said.

Mellor berated an Israeli officer today for ordering the arrest of Palestinian youths while he was visiting Jabalya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.

Egypt, the only Arab state to sign a peace treaty with Israel, was said to have warned Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that expulsions could have grave repercussions.

The PLO urged Egypt to close

Violated

Nabih Berri, leader of the Amal Militia, said leftist and Muslim militias agreed that "the struggle should stay on the real confrontation lines, in occupied Palestine."

In Amman, Occupied Territories Minister Marwan Doudin said Jordan condemned deportations but could not physically stop them. "What we can do is uncover to the whole world how inhuman, barsh and

Concern

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Kuwait's Defence Minister Sheikh Salem (right) yesterday received US Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci. (Kuna photo)

Carlucci arrives in Kuwait for talks on Iraq-Iran war

US Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci opened his first tour of the war-torn Gulf region yesterday with a visit to Kuwait, whose decision to reflag tankers under the Stars and Stripes prompted a massive American naval buildup in the area.

Newspapers in the region said he would face renewed Arab calls for help in ending the Iran-Iraq war, which has led in devastating attacks on merchant shipping in an area providing one-fifth of the non-communist world's oil.

Kuwait's Defence Minister, Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, greeted Carlucci at the airport last night.

Assembled

No talks were scheduled until today, when the US official was to meet HH the Amir, and HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, as well as the oil, defence and foreign ministers.

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Expat exodus likely as Saudi Arabia imposes income tax

RIYADH, Jan 4, (Reuters): Cash-strapped Saudi Arabia has dropped a new year bombshell on its vast army of expatriate workers by ending their 12-year income tax holiday.

Bankers and businessmen warned of a possible exodus of Westerners from managers and engineers to doctors and nurses.

One American businessman said: "This could mean a mass exodus of expats. There's not much sense of the hanging around. It will wipe out three quarters of my savings each month."

A royal decree published in the official gazette said income tax would be levied on foreigners from Jan 21, with a top rate of 30 per cent of annual salary and benefits above 66,000 riyals (\$17,600).

Deficits

Saudi nationals will not be taxed. But economists said the move, part of a new drive to rein in budget deficits, will raise 1.75 billion riyals (\$470 million) and reduce the kingdom's dependence on foreign labour.

Western businessmen and technocrats flocked to Riyadh in the late 1970s, lured by fat tax-free salaries and the prospect of lucrative deals in a booming economy flush with petrodollars.

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It rains money for hotelier in Muscat

MUSCAT, Jan 4, (AP): A Greek hotel manager received a 20,000 rial (\$52,000) cheque today because he took out insurance against rain falling in Muscat, one of the world's hottest capitals.

The average rainfall is less than 75 millimetres (2.95 inches) a year in the capital of the sultanate.

"They laughed at me, saying it was money for old rope, because it rains about once a year here," said Totly Papayannis, 44, manager of the Al Falaj hotel in Muscat.

"But I'm a conservative sort of guy."

He related that the company thought he had too much sun in a climate which tops 50 degrees Celsius (more than 120 degrees Fahrenheit) and charged him 500 rials (\$1,300) as a premium for insuring against the cancellation of an open air concert for which he had sold nearly 1,000 tickets.

Papayannis had the last laugh when it rained on the night of the concert on New Year's Eve.

W. German diplomat shot dead in Paris

PARIS, Jan 4, (Reuters): A West German consular attaché was gunned down on a lonely footbridge over the river Seine in Paris early today and police said the murder could be linked with Kurdish extremists.

A passer-by found Siegfried Wielspuetz, 31, on the steps of the bridge early in the morning, bleeding from a bullet wound to the chest.

Wielspuetz, who had been on weekend consular duty at the West German embassy, died shortly after being admitted to Val de Grace Military Hospital.

He was listed as an attaché with diplomatic status who looked after visas and passports at the consulate.

Note

Police said they believed one or two men shot Wielspuetz and left him to die on the bridge, which is little used at night.

They found a hand-written note on the body signed by the Kurdistan National Liberation Front (ERNK), an extremist group which has staged a series of protests against West German authorities.

"The Kurdish link is our first lead, but we are keeping an open mind," said a French police official.

The note came in a sealed envelope and listed ERNK grievances against West Germany, police sources said.

But an ERNK spokesman in Paris denied responsibility for the killing and said it was a provocation by Turkish secret services to discredit the group.

"They want to label us as terrorists," he said.

In Bonn, Foreign Ministry spokesman Juergen Chrobog told reporters: "I would be very careful about calling it a political attack at this stage in the investigation. French police... so far have nothing conclusive regarding the background of this incident."

Chrobog said the letter found on the body had been received by the Paris embassy several weeks ago. The letter, containing a Kurdish nationalist leaflet, had been read by Wielspuetz and other aides.

Bahrain busts subversive cell

BAHRAIN, Jan 4, (Reuters): Bahraini authorities said today they had uncovered an underground cell "aimed at undermining economic and public installations" on the Gulf island.

A statement by an official source at the Ministry of the Interior said three Bahrainis had been arrested and security officials had found several "caches." It did not say what was in the caches.

The statement, carried by the Gulf News Agency (GNA), said: "The three men admitted their involvement in the subversive act before the judge following the investigation." The statement did not identify



● Dressed to suit the climate: a fur-lined cap and jacket and a woolen muffler help this youngster keep warm. (More pictures and story on Page 4. Photo by Mohammed Bedaq)

INTERNATIONAL

Sikhs kill Punjab Congress leader

AMRITSAR, Jan 4, (AP): A senior member of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party was among five people shot and killed by Sikh militants in northern Punjab state, police said today.

Police said responsibility for the killing of Jagat Ram, vice president of the Punjab unit of the Congress Party, was claimed by the Kbalistan Liberation Force, one of more than a dozen Sikh militant groups active in the state.

Ram was shot by three militants this morning in Phagwara, 90 kilometres (56 miles) southeast of Amritsar, said A. Siddiqui, a senior police officer.

Ram's nephew, Vijay Chaudha, who was with him, was also killed in the attack, Siddiqui said. Ram, a Sikh who has a Hindu-sounding name, was a minister in the state government until 1983.

Siddiqui said two Sikhs were taken into custody from near the spot of the killing. He said they were being questioned and had not been charged.

A police official in Chandigarh, the state capital, said the killing was claimed by the Kbalistan Liberation Force. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the claim was made in a telephone call to a newspaper in Jalandhar town, also in Punjab.

First account of Manila assassination

Soldier shot Ninoy Aquino: witness

MANILA, Dec 4, (AP): A Philippine Airlines employee testified today that he saw a soldier shoot President Corazon Aquino's husband, the first time a witness has claimed to have had a full view of the assassination.

Jessie Barcelona, 30, said he was driving a towing tractor on the tarmac of Manila airport on Aug 21, 1983, when he saw former Senator Benigno Ninoy Aquino, descending the ramp of a China Air Lines jet with three uniformed escorts.

"I saw the soldier at the back of the man in white point the gun at the nape," Barcelona said. "He fired the gun and he (Aquino) fell forward."

Barcelona, who was brought to the courtroom with seven security guards, did not point out the assailant during his testimony, which was to continue Tuesday.

Version

Prosecutor Raul Gonzalez later told reporters that Barcelona's account indicated the killer was one of the 40 defendants.

Defence attorney Rodolfo Jimenez, who will cross-examine Barcelona on Tuesday, downplayed the testimony — the most

striking so far in the eight-month old trial.

"If you relate to other witnesses presented by the prosecution, this is another version," Jimenez told reporters. "I think it's the fourth version I've heard."

Jimenez said Aquino would have fallen dead on the ramp if Barcelona's account was accurate. He said photographs showed the former Senator lying dead several paces away on the tarmac.

The assassination of Aquino, the country's best known opposition figure, touched off a wave of public indignation that helped topple President Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and propelled Mrs Aquino to the presidency.

Benigno Aquino was returning to the Philippines after three years of self-imposed exile in the United States to challenge Marcos for the country's leadership.

New trial

A court in 1985 acquitted the defendants in the killing and held up the findings of a Marcos-appointed commission that Aquino was murdered by a communist agent, Rolando Galman.

Galman, a petty criminal with links to the military, was shot to

death on the tarmac moments after Aquino was slain. After Mrs Aquino took office, the Supreme Court overturned the acquittals and ordered a new trial, which began April 28.

After Benigno Aquino fell, Barcelona said he heard another gunshot, possibly the one that killed Galman. The defence claims Galman managed to get near the plane because he was dressed in a blue airline ground staff uniform.

"I saw one man wearing the uniform of a PAL employee fall," Barcelona said. "He was on the outside of the stairway. As I was moving away from the plane, I still heard a series of shots. I went to the parking area and then ran into our office and hid."

Barcelona said he had seen Galman chatting earlier that day with Col Rolando Badilla, the former Manila intelligence chief. Badilla is not charged in the case but has been held since July for alleged involvement in coup attempts against Mrs Aquino.

During the 1985 trial, the court rejected testimony by some witnesses and evidence on audio and video tapes from foreign journalists that indicated a soldier may have been Aquino's assassin.



An Indian officer checks the bag of a woman going past the headquarters of Indian troops in eastern Batticaloa district. (Reuters wirephoto)

35 killed in minority clashes

Troops patrol Sri Lanka town

COLOMBO, Jan 4, (Reuters): Indian troops and Sri Lankan police will jointly patrol the eastern town of Kattankudi where about 35 people died in minority Tamil-Muslim clashes last week, officials said today.

The decision was made at a meeting chaired by President Junius Jayewardene after Muslim Affairs Minister Haniffa Mohamed visited the area on Saturday.

The clashes near Batticaloa on Wednesday and Thursday were sparked by the killing of a Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrilla. Rebels burned houses, rice mills and vehicles, causing damage estimated at \$165,000.

About 100 people were injured

in the coastal town of 50,000 Muslims and 15,000 others sought refuge in nearby mosques.

The Tigers, the most powerful group fighting for a separate Tamil state in Northern and Eastern areas, repudiated a July Indo-Sri Lankan accord to end the revolt. The group is battling Indian troops sent to disarm them.

Escape

An Indian High Commission (embassy) official said an unknown number of Tigers were killed on Thursday as they attempted to escape by boat after the Kattankudi attack.

"They fired at an Indian helicopter which retaliated sinking four boats and their

occupants. There would have been four to five rebels in each boat," the official said.

The state-run Daily News said today that three rebel boats, ignoring orders to stop, were sunk and their crew killed on Saturday off the northern peninsula.

It reported that the boats were carrying arms and 21 men were believed to have been aboard. Indian officials were unable to confirm the incident.

Six Indian soldiers were wounded when their vehicle was hit by a landmine planted by Tamil guerrillas today in northern Sri Lanka, military officials said.

The officials said the vehicle was badly damaged in the blast at Kokkavil.

Nepal sacks its US envoy

KATMANDU, Jan 4, (AP): The government of Nepal today recalled its Ambassador to the United States, Bishwa Pradhan, and terminated his service, according to official sources.

Pradhan was sent to Washington, D C, in January 1986 on a four-year assignment.

An official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the dismissal was connected to accusations that Pradhan tried to steal books from a Washington bookstore on Christmas Eve.

Pradhan has said the accusations were untrue and the result of an unfortunate mistake. He has also said he was humiliated by the incident. He said the books were meant for his daughter, a medical student in Pakistan. He said he took them from the store to check against a letter in his car from his daughter describing the books she needed.

Police were called but when Pradhan displayed his credentials, he was released because of diplomatic immunity.

Pradhan served as Nepal's Foreign Secretary for three years.

Three Iranians get asylum in Spain

MADRID, Jan 4, (AP): Spanish authorities have granted asylum to three Iranians, one of them a 14-year-old boy, after holding the refugees at Madrid's Barajas airport for a week, police said today.

Police said 22-year-old Roya Fajari was recovering in a Madrid hospital from a hunger strike she began Wednesday to protest an earlier government decision to deny the three asylum.

Fajari, 14-year-old Reza Sirimi and a former Iranian Army member whom police did not identify had been held in the airport's transit area since they arrived Dec 28 from Istanbul, Turkey, without proper documentation, police said.

A Madrid newspaper report said Fajari had told a local lawyer she would be killed if she returned to Iran and had claimed her mother had been killed there for political reasons.

On Dec 21, Spanish authorities granted asylum to five Iranians after a week-long odyssey during which they had been

shuttled between the Netherlands, Spain and Turkey before being returned to Spain.

Meanwhile, hunger striking Iranian refugees feared what a physician called the "dangerous" four-week mark Sunday in their fast, but remained stalemated with the French government over their demand for the return of 14 expelled activists.

The protesters camping at the entrance to the French headquarters of the UN Office of High Commissioner for Refugees entered their 28th foodless day as an ambulance took away one of them, a young woman.

That brought to 10 the number of strikers in Paris-area hospitals, according to spokesmen for the Mojahedin Khalq opposition group. Four of the group's militants expelled to Gabon, West Africa, were hospitalised in a related hunger strike in Libreville, the capital, they said.

To date the French government has stood firmly behind its decision to expell the Iranian opposition members Dec 8.

Don't return home, calls opposition

Ershad arrives in Cairo

CAIRO, Jan 4, (UPI): President Hosain Mobammad Ershad of Bangladesh, leaving behind an opposition campaign to oust him, arrived in Egypt today on a four-day official visit.

President Hosni Mubarak greeted Ershad on the lawn of the Kubbah presidential palace while brass bands played their national anthems.

Egypt's semi-official Middle East News Agency said the visit was aimed at "promoting the continuous cooperation between Egypt and Bangladesh in the various fields."

Ershad left Bangladesh on the eve of a planned 15-day round of opposition protests seeking his ouster. Opposition leaders described his visit to the Middle East as an attempt to muster foreign support against the campaign.

Ershad and Mubarak will sign

four agreements on air services, closer cultural exchanges and expanded trade between the two countries. The news agency said the volume of their trade exchange amounted to \$50 million in 1986-87.

Ershad will depart Thursday for Baghdad and then will continue to Saudi Arabia for talks with King Fahd.

Opposition political parties launched an anti-Ershad campaign on Nov 10, and have vowed to continue until he resigns from the office he seized in a bloodless coup in 1982.

On Sunday, Awami League general secretary Sajeda Chowdhury adopted a mocking tone as she denounced Ershad at a Dhaka rally.

"It is better you leave the country. Don't return home from Cairo. People do not want you," Mrs Chowdhury said. "Go to Cairo and turn into a mummy and live inside a pyramid. There is no place for you in Bangladesh."

The Awami League, headed by Sheikh Hasina, and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, led by Khaleda Zia, have spearheaded a series of strikes and rallies in an effort to force Ershad to step aside.

The military, however, appears to support Ershad, who ended martial rule in November 1986 after winning a presidential election. The opposition claims the voting was rigged and charges Ershad is running a military government in civilian dress.

Asian women seek to abort unwanted girls

LONDON, Jan 4, (UPI): Dozens of pregnant Asian women have asked for pre-natal tests to determine the sex of their child so they may abort unwanted girls, the British Broadcasting Corp. said today.

The BBC "Today" radio programme said some Asian women, faced with cultural pressure to avoid female offspring, prefer male children and have asked for pre-natal amniocentesis tests simply to determine the sex of their child.

Normally amniocentesis, which poses a small risk to the child, is carried out to screen for birth defects but the tests are being "abused" by doctors to enable women to have abortions if the fetus is the "wrong gender," the BBC said.

Some unscrupulous doctors reportedly have taken bribes to perform both the test and the subsequent abortion if the baby is a girl, the BBC said. Some Asian women seek to avoid girls because under their customs, the girls have to present dowries to prospective husbands, the BBC said.

Abuse

Britain has outlawed such "gender abortions" and Dr John Dawson of the British Medical Association said, "this is a serious abuse of the skills taught at medical school."

Members of Britain's Parliament immediately demanded an investigation and Conservative lawmaker Anthony Beaumont-Dark called the practice "a disgrace to humanity."

Taiwanese seek to return to China

TAIPEI, Jan 4, (Reuters): Retired soldiers of the Nationalist Army which fled China to Taiwan in 1949 queued for grants today to pay for a trip home, joining over 25,000 people who have applied to go since Taipei eased a travel ban in November.

Many people have already gone, raising doubts over whether Taipei can enforce its prohibition on direct trade with China. Press reports have said some who applied to go for family reunions are now there looking for business.

Several thousand retired soldiers applied at a community hall for a travel grant after a nationwide cash-raising drive that netted about 240 million Taiwan dollars (\$8.4 million).

The men who joined former Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-Shek in his retreat to Taiwan captured public sympathy as some are too poor to afford the trip back.

Many Taiwanese donated a day's pay to allow old soldiers to return to their families and homes for the first time since the communists took power in China in 1949. About 20,000 are eligible to apply.

Taiwan's Red Cross, which is supervising travel to China, said today more than 25,000 people had applied to visit the mainland and that about 10,500 of them had already made the trip.

Five more die in Natal unrest

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 4, (Reuters): Five more people, including a seven-year-old girl, have been killed in the black-against-black violence that has engulfed the South African city of Pietermaritzburg, police said today.

The latest victims took the death toll during the Christmas-New Year holiday period to more than 60.

The feud, between the leftist United Democratic Front (UDF) and the Zulu-based Inkatha Movement, has spread to most of the black townships around Pietermaritzburg and welfare groups in the Natal provincial capital say it is out of control.

Police said a father and his seven-year-old daughter were stabbed to death when a gang

attacked their home in Shange on Sunday.

At Mpumalanga township, rioters set fire to a dwelling, killing a man and injuring a woman and child. Police fired shots to disperse gangs in Slangspruit, where a man was stabbed to death.

The fifth victim was a black man in Mpande, also knifed to death, police said.

Mediation

Nearly 300 people have been killed and thousands wounded since the feud erupted last year. Mediation moves came to a halt over the holiday and a public row erupted between Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, who have been at the centre of peace efforts.

Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader, has accused Tutu of siding with the UDF and being linked with "the labyrinth of intrigue which purposefully sets out to perpetuate the violence."

Tutu, leader of the Anglican Church, responded that Buthelezi "appears to think that his leadership is enhanced by denigrating others."

Meanwhile, South African police said today they were maintaining strict security checks at the border with Botswana, discounting a report from Botswana that the restrictions had been lifted.

The month-long slowdown in trade and travel across the frontier stems from South African accusations that Botswana was harbouring black nationalist guerrillas.



Queen Elizabeth and Prince Charles admire a vintage fireman's helmet after attending church at Sandringham, Norfolk. The helmet belongs to a 1939 Merryweather 'Hatfield' fire-engine. (Reuters wirephoto)

Arabs condemn Israeli expulsions

(Continued from Page 1)

uncalled for the Israeli actions are."

In Baghdad, a PLO spokesman said today that the Central Council of the PLO will meet in Baghdad on Thursday to discuss setting up a government-in-exile.

He said the 95-member group would consider a report from its legal committee on legislative and political aspects.

PLO chief Yasser Arafat has suggested that he expects such a government to be formed soon, the Washington Post reported today.

Syria called today for world condemnation of what it termed Israeli terrorism after Israel said it would expel nine ringleaders of Palestinian protests in the occupied territories.

"It is the duty of the international world to rise with all its means and denounce the Israeli terrorism," Syria said.

Burned

Israeli soldiers today used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse demonstrators who burned tyres and threw stones in the West Bank village of El Rom, where a Palestinian woman died from Israeli gunfire the day before, the Army said.

An Army spokesman who demanded anonymity said the demonstration lasted for about 90 minutes before soldiers dispersed the crowd. Elsewhere in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a rash of small-scale protests took place, but no injuries were reported.

The Army said a curfew was re-imposed on the Tulikarem refugee camp in the West Bank, restricting the 10,000 residents to their homes. Arab reports said demonstrators threw stones, burned tyres and blocked the main road.

Shevardnadze in Kabul talks with Najib

MOSCOW, Jan 4, (Reuters): Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze flew to Kabul today and went straight into talks with Afghan President Najibullah.

The official Tass news agency described Shevardnadze's previously unannounced trip as a working visit. It gave no details of his discussion with Najibullah. The Soviet Union, which intervened militarily in Afghanistan in Dec 1979, has been seeking to extricate itself from the country's lengthy civil war.

President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev discussed Afghanisthan during their Washington summit last month, but US officials said little progress was made.

Shevardnadze's arrival in Kabul coincided with the start of talks in neighbouring Pakistan between US Undersecretary of State Michael Armacost and Foreign Ministry officials on prospects for ending the nine-year-old Afghan war. Armacost also met with President Zia-ul-Haq.

Pakistani officials said they were hoping to hear Washington's assessment of Soviet intentions following the summit.

The analysts said Shevardnadze was also likely to discuss the outcome of an offensive by thousands of Afghan government and Soviet troops to break a three-month siege of the eastern garrison town of Khost by Muslim rebels.

Last week the Afghan government said it had broken the siege and food convoys were getting through to Khost along the 125 km (80 miles) road from the provincial capital Gardez.

The rebels said yesterday their forces were still blocking the road, but an eyewitness reported seeing a 40-vehicle convoy advancing towards Khost the previous day.

Chin, 77, dies

BANGKOK, Jan 4, (AP): Chin Sophonpanich, a one-time shop apprentice who founded southeast Asia's largest bank and became one of the region's richest men, has died, local newspapers reported. Chin was 77.

Chin died at Bangkok's Bumrungrat Hospital last night of heart failure brought on by diabetes, the newspapers said.

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KUWAIT... GULF

Egyptian official denies Kuwait sought troops

A TOP foreign policy adviser for Egypt's President denied that Kuwait has requested Egyptian help to deploy Egyptian troops in Kuwait to deter potential Iranian threats and intimidation.

In an interview with daily Al-Sayassah, published yesterday, presidential adviser for political affairs, Osama El Baz, said that "Kuwait does not need the help of Arab forces because the situation is under control."

Following the Gulf Cooperation Council's summit meeting last month, reports alleged that Kuwait had requested a joint Jordanian-Egyptian force to come to Kuwait in preparation for any potential foreign threats.

Concern
El Baz, who is also First Undersecretary of foreign affairs, confirmed, however, that the military and defensive needs of Kuwait were discussed in talks with Kuwaiti officials but no proposals for a rapid

deployment force to Kuwait was discussed.

In the wide-ranging interview, the top adviser voiced concern over the behaviour of Israel in the occupied Arab territories and the way Palestinian protesters were and are treated.

"We reject and stand firm against this kind of behaviour. We are making contacts with the Israeli government and are active in convincing the international community to deplore Israel's behaviour," the Egyptian official said.

Threats
While stressing Egypt's active role in carrying the Security Council to issue its resolution condemning Israeli policy concerning the uprisings, El Baz said that Israel "cannot seek Egypt's love and friendship as long as it threatens other Arab countries."

"The way for a good friendship with Egypt is for Israel to seek the love and friendship of

Palestinians, Jordanians, Syrians and other Arab countries," emphasised El Baz.

The uprisings in occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip started on a small scale in the middle of last month, but later spread to Arabs in Jerusalem.

Israel's behaviour to control the situation was condemned by a Security Council resolution that passed with US abstention, an action rarely taken by Washington, but reflects its displeasure with Israeli policies.

Israel has been using violent means to quell the civilian protest which was designed to highlight the suffering of the Palestinians living under the Israeli occupation.

El Baz said that the uprising "is a natural reaction by the Palestinians under occupation and is a pure internal reaction to the Israeli policy which is based on damaging the rights of the Arabs living in Israel."



● A number of students from Kuwait's Jabriya Kindergarten and their teacher Badriya Al Obeidi visited Hawalli Governor Sheikh Salman Humoud Al Salmun Al Sabah and presented him with a flower bouquet in honour of his taking office. The governor also received the Chairman and Board Director of the Al Omariya and Al Rabyia Cooperative Society, who congratulated the governor on his appointment. Governor Sabah is pictured with some of the kindergarten students.

ROYAL COURT

Amiri audience

HH the Amir yesterday received Education Minister Anwar Abdullah Al Nouri who introduced to the Amir the new Director-General of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Dr Abdul Rahman Saleh Al Mohallan.

Amir to patronise

HH the Amir will patronise today a celebration of Kuwaiti Teachers' Society on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of its establishment.

Education Minister Anwar Abdullah Al Nouri is deputised by the Amir to attend the society's celebrations.

Congratulations

HH the Amir yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to the President of Burma on the occasion of his country's National Day.

Crown Prince audiences

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah yesterday received the Minister of Interior Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed, the adviser of the Amir's office Major General Abdul Latif Al Thwaini, a member of the Housing Higher Council, Ali Khalaf, a member of the Municipal Affairs Committee, Nasser Al Sugh'bi and a member of the Planning Higher Council, Dr Muhammad Sabah Al Salem. Sheikh Saad also received a number of citizens at the public diwan.

Anti-smoking complementary services

KUWAIT'S Anti-Smoking and Cancer Society has set up a special programme to help smokers by providing special kinds of cigarettes containing less tar and nicotine, the chairman, Dr Hussein Al Moemen, has revealed.

He added that the society will render complementary services to help smokers break the habit.

He said the society had many attempts to help smokers minimise their consumption of cigarettes.

Dr Al Moemen said that statistics showed a significant increase in lung cancer cases among males, amounting to 18.5 per cent of all cancer cases. Lung cancer cases among Kuwaiti women had increased by 200 per cent. Among expatriates the increase was 415 per cent.

Statistics showed that some heart patients were between 20 to 30 years of age, mostly among those who began smoking at an early age.

Danger posed to US forces in the Gulf

MANAMA, Jan 4, (UPI): An apparently accidental Iraqi missile strike on a Maltese-registered freighter has added to fears that "trigger-happy" Iraqi pilots rather than Iran's Islamic zealots pose the greatest danger to US forces in the Gulf.

An Iraqi jet fighter sent a sea-skimming Exocet missile slamming into the 16,134-ton Alga late Friday as it steamed southward through the Gulf with cargo from Kuwait.

"These guys are some of the worst and most irresponsible pilots in the world," one US serviceman complained privately yesterday. We are on constant alert out there and for good reasons."

A senior shipping executive in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates port where the Alga struggled into repair on Saturday, said, "It seems like this was another case of a trigger-happy Iraqi pilot."

Boasted
About 24 hours before the Iraqi mistake was revealed, military officials in Baghdad boasted of scoring "so accurate and effective" strike on a tanker serving Iran's coastal oil facilities.

The strike on the Maltese-registered, Greek-owned vessel underlined the fear of many navy officers, diplomats and Gulf shipping officials that Iraqi pilots firing from a safe distance may be the biggest threat to all those who venture into the Gulf.

"It is clear that the Iraqis continue to pose a threat in the north," said one Western diplomat who spoke on condition he not be identified.

The strike on the Maltese-registered, Greek-owned vessel underlined the fear of many navy officers, diplomats and Gulf shipping officials that Iraqi pilots firing from a safe distance may be the biggest threat to all those who venture into the Gulf.

"It is clear that the Iraqis continue to pose a threat in the north," said one Western diplomat who spoke on condition he not be identified.

There were 23 traffic accidents in the country yesterday, two in the capital two in Hawalli, 16 in Ahmadi and three in Jahra.

Mubarak discusses Gulf war with US senator

CAIRO, Jan 4, (Agencies): President Hosni Mubarak today met with US Senator John Chafee and discussed the Gulf war and the Middle East situation, including unrest in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Egypt's state-owned Middle East News Agency quoted the Rhode Island Republican as saying afterward that relations between the United States and Egypt remain "very good."

During the 45-minute meeting, Chafee said he discussed with Mubarak the US role in seeking an end to the Iran-Iraq war, the Middle East crisis and Israeli actions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Palestinian protests and clashes with Israeli forces have left 23 Palestinians dead in the two areas since Dec 8.

Treaty
Egypt, the only Arab state having a peace treaty and diplomatic ties with Israel, has condemned strongly "repressive" policies by the Jewish state in occupied Arab territory. The United States also has criticised Israel for using "excessive force"

against the Palestinians.

Both Washington and Cairo have warned that Israel's threatened deportation of Palestinians would violate international law and could lead to more violence. Egypt reportedly has vowed not to accept Palestinian deportees across its common border with Israel.

Israel has announced it intends to deport nine Palestinians, but the men can go to court to appeal the decision.

Chafee, a member of the US senate's committees of environment, public works and finance, is on a regional familiarisation tour which will take him also to Jordan and Israel.

Military cooperation
Meanwhile, a Kuwaiti newspaper quoted informed Egyptian sources as saying that President Hosni Mubarak will discuss during his visit to the US at the end of this month with President Reagan and ranking American officials, US plans on continuing bilateral military cooperation within the framework of upgrading the Egyptian armed forces.

The sources told the newspaper that President Mubarak will work for eliminating all obstacles which obstruct the signing of a final contract of manufacturing US-made M-1 tank in Egypt, after military leadership of the two countries realised a semi-agreement in this respect last year.

Study on dangers of depending on expats

THE head of the international cooperation department at the Arab Security Studies and Training Centre in Riyadh, Dr Hussein Al Refai warned of the dangerous consequences of depending largely upon foreign manpower including servants and maids.

In a study he made for the Bureau of the Social Affairs and Labour Ministers of Gulf States, Al Refai said that one of the most dangerous consequences to Gulf societies was that coming generations, would have no respect for manual work. He said that expatriate manpower may also influence the cohesive social and family relationships in Gulf society.

The study warned against employing more non Arab

expatriates, particularly as housemaids and drivers.

The study said that there were five factors that led to the wide use of foreign maids in the Gulf. These included high living standards, rapid civilisation, comprehensive development, education of female citizens and working of female citizens in many jobs. He said that the Gulf states, in order to meet the requirements of its developments encouraged by high oil returns, resorted to bringing foreign manpower, especially Asians, who are characterised by obedience accept low wages and work for long working hours without any complaints.

He said that this led to foreign manpower exceeded the number of nationals in some Gulf states.

Fatwa's role important

KUWAIT'S Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed said that the Fatwa and Legislation Department played an important role in issuing legal opinions regarding ministry legalities. He added that laws were issued according to economic, legal and social values.

Al Rashed explained that while filling positions with Kuwaitis was necessary for the country, it did not mean that consultants with needed qualifications were overlooked. He praised the role of Arab consultants who had worked for the ministry since the 1970s.

The minister praised the achievements of Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research (KISR) and said that it was beginning a new stage of cooperation with the Kuwait Science Club in joint studies and projects.

Drug smuggling gang arrested

SHARJAH, Jan 4, (GNA): Sharjah police have arrested an international drug smuggling gang of 13 Pakistanis and Indians while they were attempting to smuggle 600 kilograms of hashish with an estimated street value of Dh 3 million through Khorfakan port.

The head of the narcotics fighting department at the Sharjah general police department, Major Ali Nasser Al Fardan, said that thorough investigations by the Sharjah police had enabled them to follow the movements of the gang and pinpoint their arrival at the port.

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Winter sets in

By Jadranka Porter

WINTER has quietly set in in Kuwait with a spell of sunny but cold days and chilly nights and with no storms, of the kind outlined on synoptic charts, gathering on the horizon. It was a bright, if cold beginning to the New Year with temperatures falling to 1° C forcing the residents of Kuwait to bring out their warm clothing, if they haven't already done so.

The demand for sweaters, blankets and electric heaters is on the rise. So is the number of people suffering from cold.

But Kuwait winters are not entirely predictable. Although the air can easily turn nippy, winter in Kuwait is generally described as mild and pleasant. January is the coldest month but winter temperatures are known to have shot up to 30°C. The lowest temperature recorded in Kuwait was 6°C below zero in January, 1964. If past records are anything to go by, temperatures, this January will stay above 10°C for most part of the day except in periods between 3 am and 8 am.

Waiting
The cold spell Kuwait is experiencing now is largely due to high pressure in central Asia which is associated with north-

westerly winds, the portents of cold dry air from the interior of the continent.

Rain is brought to Kuwait on the wings of the south-easterly winds from the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. If it rains heavily this year, it should rain this month. Once they reach Kuwait the rain-bearing clouds seem to scatter in different directions over the country's small territory. So if it rains in Failaka the chances are it won't rain in Shuwaikh.

The rainfall also varies from year to year but it can generally be described as low with the mean total of about 120mm per year.

Kuwait's residents spend months waiting for winter and when it eventually comes they show their appreciation by donning true winter gear. Sometimes they look overdressed, in terms of layers of clothing and the thickness of the fabric.

At the Sultan Center in Salmiya, a popular parade ground for shoppers, but also those who want to see and be seen, many women sport hoots and leg-warmers. "I've been waiting for months to wear the winter clothes" said one of them adding that feeling warm is sometimes more than just a matter of climate.



Low morning temperatures have forced Kuwait's residents to change into their winter clothes. (Pictures by Mohd Badaq)



Huddling over an electric fire to keep warm is not an image usually associated with Kuwait.

French deputy for Kuwait

PARIS, Jan 4. (Kuna): Chairman of the France-Arab Circle Deputy Yves Guena leaves today for Kuwait on the first leg of a tour to Gulf states.

Guena, who will stay in Kuwait for four days, is scheduled to meet Kuwait officials to inform them on the objectives of the France-Arab

Circle which was formed last June.

The deputy and former minister will also visit Qatar for three days starting January 9 and conclude his tour to Bahrain the next day.

The France-Arab Circle, which groups a number of national assembly members, government officials and journalists, was formed to promote Franco-Arab relations and to explain the French policy in the Arab world.

Guena was a minister in the government of late President Charles de Gaulle and currently he is the chairman of the Franco-Tunisian Friendship Society in parliament.

Last August, Guena visited Tunisia where he met with PLO leader Yasser Arafat, Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi and former Prime Minister Rachid Sfar.

He also visited Algiers and Baghdad in September for meetings with senior officials in these two Arab capitals.

Headmistresses urged to attend competition

THE Director of Kuwait's Al Jabra Educational Area Mohammed Abu Al Kahl urged intermediate school headmistresses to attend the home economics competition which will be held soon. He said that the attendance of the headmistresses would encourage student participation in the competition, which will include cooking, tailoring and decorating events.

Al Kahl said that the purpose of the competition is to nurture a respect for handicraft and a spirit of cooperation among students.

Sheikh Nasser hopes 1988 will be the year of Arab solidarity

KUWAIT wishes to see 1988 crown Arab solidarity and unity of purpose and objectives and witness an end to the war between Iraq and Iran, Minister of Information Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed said yesterday.

Speaking in his weekly diwanah entitled "the citizen's day," the minister availed himself of the advent of the new year to commend the wise leadership of HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier and their ceaseless pursuit of the fulfillment of the citizens interests.

The minister lauded the popular uprising of the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as having a worldwide political and informational impact, specially among the peace-loving nations.

He said the Amir and the Crown Prince have always been deeply concerned with the struggle of the Palestinians in the occupied territories and have taken adequate steps to support the Arabs there, adding what Kuwait does is a duty rather than a service.

Addressing the attendants who included journalists, the minister said the date of the visit of President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to Kuwait as part of a Gulf tour will be announced in due course.

Festival
On the Arab World Institute in France which was opened by the French President last month, Sheikh Nasser explained that since France met 60 per cent of the cost of the construction of

the institute, France was to name a French director for the institute and the Arabs name an Arab deputy director.

Asked whether other institutes are being considered in other Western nations and the United Nations, he said the initiative should be taken by the Arab League.

Sheikh Nasser said six Gulf theatrical troupes will attend the first Gulf theatre festival in the first half of coming April along with other personalities interested in the theatre.

Asked whether a Gulf journalists society will be formed, the president of the Kuwait Journalists Society who attended the diwanah, Ahmed Behbehani, said the idea was being considered.

Nouri to attend IBE session

GENEVA, Jan 4. (Kuna): Kuwait's Education Minister, Anwar Abdullah Al Nouri, and two senior officials are due in Geneva in mid-January to take part in the annual council meeting of the international bureau of education.

The 24 nations which make up the council have the job of overseeing the work of the IBE, a Geneva research and documentation institute allied to UNESCO, which promotes advances in education techniques.

Take advantage of extended grace period

KUWAIT'S Interior Ministry urged residents in violation of the residence law to take advantage of the extended grace period to legalise their status in the country.

The ministry added that new amendments to the residence law contain strict penalties and that violators have upto January 31 to contact the ministry.

Spare parts shops to be inspected

A SOURCE at Kuwait's Ministry of Commerce and Industry said that the Consumers Protection Department will launch a campaign to inspect spare parts shops and to identify parts which are so badly constructed that they fall apart without any benefit to the consumer.

He said that they will inspect car parts and electrical appliances shops, adding that although these parts are cheap to buy they do not last very long.

Japan Week

JAPAN Week will be launched with kite-flying at Kuwait Science Club on Jan 21. The Japanese Embassy in Kuwait requested that the Science Club supervise the kite-flying and display activities and will bring two Japanese kite experts to instruct children at the club. Seventy children are expected to participate in the programme.

There are two other Arab states on the council, Egypt and Syria.

Greek envoy

KUWAIT'S State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Saoud Al Osaimi received yesterday the Greek Ambassador to Kuwait Konstantin Trokos.

Bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern were discussed at the meeting.

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Need for holding activities for children stressed

THE controller of infant services at the Social Affairs and Labour Ministry, Nawal Al Sallal, has stressed the importance of the decisions and recommendations adopted at the third meeting of directors of GCC youth centres held in the UAE last month.

Speaking to a local newspaper, she stressed the need for holding all types of activities, contests and art exhibitions as well as training in calligraphy, as recommended by the GCC general-secretariat.

She said the meeting discussed

the need to establish science clubs in residential neighbourhoods, to provide sports facilities to develop the skills of youngsters and to encourage them to visit hospitals, gardens and zoos.

The meeting also stressed the need for encouraging the exchange of visits, holding of training courses and organising special festivities for children.

She called on all member states to attend the training course to be held in Bahrain from April 2 to 6.

10 years hard labour for fraud

KUWAIT'S Criminal Court sentenced a man to ten years hard labour on the charge of fraud after hearing that the defendant entered the room of three workers, and claiming to be working for the Criminal Investigation Department, demanded that one man, who he saw was carrying a large amount of money, go with him to the police station.

The defendant offered to release the man for KD400, and when the man refused, the defendant took out a knife and threatened to kill him. The man started shouting until police came and arrested the defendant.

Bridge construction

AN OFFICIAL source at Kuwait's General Traffic Department said that the department is preparing for the construction of a bridge over Fahheel Expressway between Fintas and Egaila bridge. The source added that the Fahheel Expressway would be temporarily closed in this area and that three detours would be provided. One of the detour in the western direction leading from Kuwait to Fahheel will be opened on January 4. The second detour will be opened on January 8 and the third one will be opened on January 15. The road diversions will continue for three months.

Meanwhile, there were 11 road accidents reported yesterday; four in Kuwait City and seven in Ahmadi.

One accident involved an unlicensed driver who hit the pavement near the Psychiatric Disorders Hospital damaging some of the trees.

Preparations on to evict shop owners

AN official source at Kuwait Municipality announced that the grace period given owners of shops in Shuwaikh has expired and preparations are being made to evict those involved.

The source said that the government had issued no decision to extend the grace period and that the eviction of shopkeepers would proceed as announced.

The source explained that the owners of these shops had been given permission earlier by the Municipality to use some of these shops as storage space, but they later turned them into shops which was against the Municipal planning for the industrial area.

Power consumption

MAXIMUM power consumption during November was 1,865 megawatts on Nov 1 and the maximum water consumption was 112 million gallons on Nov 30 according to statistics released recently by the Ministry of Electricity and Water.

Total water consumption was 3,228,000,000 gallons and total production was 3,354,000,000 gallons.

The report said that Rawdattain and Um Al Aish water wells produced about 1,820,000 gallons. Rawda wells over 972 million gallons, Shuwaikh distillation plant over 697 million gallons, south Shuwaiba plant over 609 million gallons, East Doha plant 557 million gallons, North Shuwaiba over 151 million gallons, and south Zoor plant over 8.5 million gallons.

Youth groups to participate in planting trees

ABDUL Rahman Al Mazroui, the Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour for Youth Affairs, said that authorities are organising youth groups to participate in activities such as maintenance of public gardens and planting trees and shrubs in various areas.

Al Mazroui praised the efforts of youth groups in serving their country and acknowledged their help with traffic police in facilitating traffic movement. He added that members of youth groups also participate in regional and international camps.

Time to camp in the deserts

People start looking for tents

PEOPLE have started looking for tents as school holidays are approaching and families start leaving for deserts for camping.

Owners of tent companies told a local newspaper that tents were cheaper than last year and prices depended on the demand. They said that new models of tents had appeared in the market, and tents with partitions, carpets and in different colours were most popular.

They said that the season for selling tents began in December and will last until the end of February.

Most tents were imported from Pakistan and Europe, and Kuwaitis preferred to buy Pakistani tents. Tents from Europe were sold mostly to customers who wanted to erect them in their house yards. These tents had a wider colour choice and were easier to carry and install.

They said that tents made of thicker material were better and could withstand different weather conditions.

Popular

Tents with cloth over 19 millimeters thick are capable of preventing rain leaking inside. Some coloured tents are bad and the colours wash away with rain.

The dealers explained that tents were measured by the foot. One tent dealer, Jaza Amer Al Mairi, told the newspaper that the biggest tent he had ever seen had 14 poles, with an area of 150x50 feet, and able to accommodate at least 1,000 people. The smallest tent was 10x10 feet and suitable for two or three persons.

Sizes of European tents were given in numbers and were smaller in size.

Cooperation needed to fight drugs

THE Director of the Research and Studies Centre at the Interior Ministry, Col. Abdul Majid Khraibet said recently that the Arab strategy for fighting illegal use of drugs had shown the need for more Arab cooperation in this very important field.

He said that Arab Interior Ministers had decided at their recent meeting in Tunis to go ahead in implementing the strategy to fight drugs and dealers.

He said that Arab cooperation in this field will not be fruitful unless there is a national policy against drugs in each Arab country.

He said that the strategy has adopted three main ways to fight drug addiction and prevent its spread in the Arab world.

These are the development of religious, national and social awareness among people. The strategy also called for coordination with the media and paying more attention to the role of social service centres at schools, universities and establishments. It also called for encouraging the formation of anti-drugs societies.

Treatment

About treatment of drug addicts, Col. Khraibet said that the strategy adopted several forms of treatment. It called for adopting modern methods of treatment and establishment of special clinics to cure addicts and of other centres for their rehabilitation. It called for providing more attention to facing and solving the problems of addicts in the public health programmes of all Arab countries. Col. Khraibet said that the strategy called for stopping planting of all plants that produce drugs.

He said that the Arab drug fighting strategy also called for establishing a national committee for fighting the illegal use of drugs in each Arab country. The committee should include

representatives from health, media, social, security and legal departments. The committee would work out policies and plans in each country to strictly watch the use of drugs and fight its illegal use.

Training

The strategy also called for establishing a special department in each Arab country to follow up fighting drugs and its use. This department will operate in coordination with similar departments in other Arab countries.

The strategy also called for working out plans to hold training courses for all personnel involved in fighting against drugs and its smuggling.

Khraibet said that the strategy called for quick exchange of information between Arab countries concerning drugs, especially information about drug smugglers and traders.

It called also for working out a pan-Arab black list of the names of all dangerous persons involved in smuggling and trading of drugs.

Smuggling

It also called for preparing an Arab dictionary for the names of drugs and narcotics with a description of all these materials.

Khraibet said that the Arab world has been divided into three parts concerning the possibility of drug smuggling. The first is the east Mediterranean which includes Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Iraq. These countries face smuggling of hashish, opium, and heroin from Turkey.

The second part is the Arabian Gulf states which face smuggling of hashish, opium, and heroin from countries such as Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkey and India.

The third part is the Arab west that includes Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Tunisia and Egypt. These countries may get drugs from Europe and Turkey.

Telephone lines increased last year to 547,000

KUWAIT'S Communications Ministry Undersecretary Abdul Aziz Al Ayoub said that one of the ministry's greatest achievements over the past year was the increase in telephone lines to 547,000, adding that the number of lines installed over the past ten years totalled 28,092. Al Ayoub said that the National Day celebrations would include the opening of new telephone exchange in Shuwaikh, with a capacity of 30,000 lines and Jebel Al Sbiyounh, Sulatbiya and Jahra, with 10,000 each.

He added that the ministry would also provide the Wafra exchange with 1,400 additional lines and that a contract had already been signed with local consultants to provide computerised visual data services and an emergency telephone system.

The undersecretary said that a total of 9,397,670 international calls had been made during 1987 from Kuwait.

Meanwhile, the Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative Affairs Saqr Al Sudan said that the Communications

Ministry is studying options for retraining personnel after the release of non-Kuwaitis from the ministry. He said that the ministry hoped to be allowed sufficient employment, grades, within its new budget to make up for the personnel shortage in certain skill areas.

Al Sudan added that the ministry was continually upgrading its mail service and that further funding was available to improve its performance for the public.

Alimony case dismissed

KUWAIT'S Personal Status Court has dismissed a case filed by a man for reducing the monthly alimony he paid to his ex-wife and three children.

The man presented the court with a certificate indicating that his monthly income did not permit him to pay the alimony.

But the court learnt from his bank that the plaintiff's account was well over KD one million, and rejected his appeal.



A man fixing a window in a tent

Prices depended on size. A family tent of 13x20 feet made in Pakistan cost between KD115 and KD120. Tents used for diwanah is sold for between KD90 and KD100.

People skilled in erecting tents could put up a family size tent in 15 minutes. The work could be done by two people if the tent had two poles, and by one person if it had a single pole.

Many people came from Saudi Arabia to buy tents in Kuwait although prices were higher, because the tents were of a better quality.

There are 24 companies selling tents in Kuwait and four are popular.

Tent dealers said that most of these companies had stopped dealing in tents because tent sales were not very profitable, and tent sales depended mostly on Saudi customers, with 80 per cent of the tents being bought by Saudis.

Some companies rent tents, specially for weddings and other celebrations. They provide a free video recording for all weddings, power supply, cooks and all facilities. They charge an average of KD700 for each occasion.

هكذا من العمل

WHAT'S ON

SOCIAL

Kuwait Caledonians
Kuwait Caledonians will celebrate Burns Night on Thursday Jan 28, 7.30pm, at Messiah Beach Hotel. Guest speaker will be Bob Crempsey. For details ring 5610673 or 5335082.

Kuwait Cultural Centre
Dance classes will start shortly at the Centre. For further details phone 5624393.

Vienna Boys Choir
Vienna Boys Choir will give one performance at 8.00 pm on Jan 5 (Tuesday) in the Grand Ballroom at Kuwait Hilton Hotel. They will play a 40 minute piece by Johann Strauss — Tales from the Vienna Woods. They will also present excerpts from compositions by Franz Schubert, Peter Eben, Henry Purcell and Viadana and Benjamin Britten.

Kapilku
The Pakisanang Filipino Sa Kuwait (Kapilku) will hold its annual general membership meeting on Friday, Jan 8, from 2.30pm at the Philippine Embassy. During the meeting, the Kapilku's constitution will be presented for ratification. New officers will also be elected. All Filipino residents are requested to attend the meeting. For details phone Edna — 5634200 or Gil — 2422301/304.

Daniella
All Danes are invited to a second-hand sale from 10 am on Jan 10. For further details or if Danes want to join, call Marianne on 3948953 before Jan 9.

KLT
Kuwait Little Theatre, Ahmadi, are looking for pianists for a summer musical coming up in March. For further details call 3983246.

HOTELS

At the Ramada Al Salam
All-day dining at El Bender Coffee Shop. Grilled specialties featured at the Grill Garden. Snacks and cocktails offered at the Lobby Lounge with live entertainment. Every Thursday night Le Mirage features barbecue with live music.

At the Hilton
La Palma features Oriental, Continental and International cuisine as well as a large array of sweets and desserts for lunch and dinner. Buffet, Friday, Jan 19th floor features a specialty menu for lunch and dinner.

At the Meridien
Versailles is open for lunch and dinner, featuring a selection of Continental cuisine, meats and seafood, charcoal grilled to perfection. Business lunch with three choices daily also featured. Live entertainment in the evenings.

At the Continental
Gardenia offers food and beverage service on the Terrace. Daily dinner buffet and on Fridays lunch buffet with charcoal grilled specialties. Darbar features daily lunch buffet and a la carte for dinner.

At the Holiday Inn
Businessman's lunch buffet, featuring three main course dishes, salads and sweet buffet, tea/coffee, offered daily at Al Dana Restaurant.

At the Sheraton
Dine in the Hunt Room with live music by the gypsy band. For lunch, Hunt Room offers a la carte. Italian cuisine featured for dinner in the Riccardo Restaurant.

Al Andalus

Police Story

Starring: Jackie Chan, Brigitte Lane

Al Sabaya

Jana Al Wuhoush (Arabic)

Starring: Noor Al Shariff, Mahmoud Abdul Aziz, Noora

Al Hamra

Wa Yabqa Al Hub (Arabic)

Starring: Farid Shawki, Suhair Ramzi

Drive-In

Ya Sadeeqi Kam Tasawi (Arabic)

Starring: Farid Shawki, Safiya Al Omari

Al Firdous

Begana (Hindi)

Starring: Kumar Gaurav, Rati Agnihotri

Fahadhel Open-Air

Chacha Bhatteja (Hindi)

Al-Fahadhel

Hands of Steel

Al Jabra

Madhu Maloti (Bengali)

Granada

Ithirayum Kalam (Malayalam)

Sulabikhat

Rage

Al Jebel

Nawab Sirajuddaula (Bengali)

Ahmedi Drive-In

Ayyam Fi London

Focus on Pakistan TV

Ansari stands out among self-styled geniuses

By Ashraf Shad

SEVEN years after my last visit I recently visited Karachi and was shocked by the deterioration of television, which has lost some of its earlier image. The quality of television programmes has gone down for instance. The announcers don't smile anymore, there are tedious talk shows indulging in propaganda and even prime time dramas are not the same anymore.

The plays are boring and move at a snail's pace, characters lecture on the philosophy of life with blank expressions on their faces. Perhaps, it is a lean period for Karachi television. However, there were some small consolations like the absence of Roohi Bano and Khalida Riasat from the television scene. Bano's and Riasat's hypocritical feminist stance, their pretentious artistic claims and pseudo-intellectualism always bothered me.

Pseudo-intellectualism is the latest fad of Pakistan Television's self-styled geniuses. This is one reason why Iqbal Ansari stands out among the "self-styled" pseudo-intellectuals in Pakistan.

Ansari, one of the best-known drama producers in Pakistan, has several plays and serials to his credit. All his plays seem to be inspired by an urge to improve society.

Ansari explained: "I have a strong commitment to develop my country's society, and until I come close to achieving a certain level, I'll not go for pure entertainment."

His assertions are based on convictions and are not simple rhetoric. He talks in a high-pitched emotional voice as he discusses his interest in purposeful drama. "In a developing society, drama should be meaningful," he said. Because of this commitment, he has emerged successfully as one of Lahore Television's serious producers, far removed from the frivolous atmosphere of Karachi's "play group".

A confident playwright, Ansari wants his viewers to "remember his plays". "I don't want viewers to forget the play, I want them to talk about it, discuss it and think after they have seen it," he asserts. He has achieved some recognition for his efforts as the viewers have responded enthusiastically.

Awareness
He is striving to create awareness in society. "I want people to be aware of what is happening around them. When I meet someone, if he gives me a feedback, a feeling that he has liked my work, I feel I have conveyed my message."

Ansari's career began with his first successful play entitled "Nacy Chehray" (New Faces) in 1976, broadcast by Rawalpindi television.

After his first success, he never looked back. He made several productions for Rawalpindi TV including Gharoonday (Sand Castles). Later, he was transferred to Karachi, where he produced his first full-length serial entitled "Caravan".

Caravan won the Pakistan Television Award. His recent productions are Barzak, shown in 1987, on Pakistan Television. Ansari is now working on a new serial called Zahar (Poison), starring Bushra, his wife and a well-known actress. The male lead is being played by Asif Raza

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Iqbal Ansari: playwright

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

VANITY plays lurid tricks with our memory — Joseph Conrad, Polish-born novelist (1857-1924).

Situation in Sri Lanka

Economic revival is the way to peace

By Sheila Tefft

COLOMBO: A drop in the level of ethnic violence has provided an opening for economic revival in Sri Lanka.

On Dec 4 last year officials of Sri Lanka and 14 other countries as well as leading agencies met in Paris to discuss a \$400 million aid package to rebuild houses, roads, and communications.

The government here hopes it will set this island nation on the road to recovery from the four-year civil war that has left more than 7,000 dead and the economy in shambles.

"Our country must rise, phoenix-like, from the ashes," Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel told the Sri Lankan Parliament recently. "Economic recovery and economic revival is the only way to hold the peace and to consolidate the peace."

But observers say the turnaround that began when Sri Lanka and India signed a peace accord on July 29 is still shaky. In October, the Indian Army, which was brought in to enforce the peace plan, battled Tamil separatists in their Jaffna stronghold. The guerrilla fighting continues today. In November Sinhalese extremists opposing the accord unleashed a wave of bombings in the south, including the capital, Colombo.

Claim

The Tamil minority has long claimed discrimination by the Sinhalese who account for about 80 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people. Since 1983, when anti-Tamil rioting swept the country, Tamil militants have been fighting the government for their own homeland in the north and east.

The resurging violence threatened to postpone the Paris meeting, which observers said would have been a serious setback for President Junius Jayewardene's government. Fresh outbreaks could still choke off desperately needed new aid from the United States, Canada, and other major donors.

Annual foreign aid of \$600 million now provides about one-third of government revenues. De Mel says Sri Lanka needs \$3 billion in new foreign assistance over the next three years to rebuild the country and create new jobs.

"The extremists know they have the government by the economic jugular," an Asian diplomat in Colombo says.

The ethnic conflict has been a severe blow to the Western-leaning economic plans of Jayewardene. After coming to power in 1977, the President opened the country's socialist economy to new foreign trade and investment.

Huge development projects

were launched. New factories were set up using the country's low-cost labour. Plush hotels rose in Colombo. Sri Lanka seemed poised to become another Asian miracle economy patterned after Hong Kong and Singapore.

Although largely confined to the north and east, the ethnic strife has taken a toll throughout the country. Spending has tripled to convert Sri Lanka's ceremonial army into a fighting force. This has sent the budget into deep deficit.

Since violence began in 1983, tourism, a key foreign exchange earner, has collapsed and tourist arrivals dropped by half. Economic growth shrank from seven per cent to four per cent, and unemployment jumped to more than 25 per cent in some areas.

Thousands of farms and fishing boats, mainstays of the Sri Lankan economy, were destroyed, and refugee camps were filled with unemployed. Tens of thousands of people fled overseas, including many young educated Tamils, whose loss will harm the economy for years to come, observers predict.

"If I did not stop this conflict, we would have been bankrupt," Jayewardene says.

Revival

The economy already is starting to pull out of its tailspin, officials insist. Businessmen are dusting off long-delayed expansion plans, and foreign investors' interest is reviving.

In two Colombo free-trade zones, foreign investment this year has tripled to \$18 million. And new projects totalling \$100 million are on the drawing board. Still, the government has invested \$4 million in new security at the industrial parks, and businessmen say the threat of terrorism makes them think twice about relocating.

With the Indian Army bearing the brunt of Sri Lanka's war against Tamil extremists, the government hopes slowly to reduce its \$1 billion annual budget deficit and curb rapidly rising double-digit inflation.

India also has pledged \$40 million in aid, half of which must be spent on Indian capital goods and services. Talks are under way between the two countries to jointly operate a controversial oil depot in the port city of Trincomalee and to cooperate on oil exploration.

Sri Lankan critics of the peace accord worry their country could become a political and economic satellite of its giant neighbour. "They already have taken over the north and east of our country," a Sinhalese businessman says. "Now they want to dominate our economy."

The Christian Science Monitor.

UK-France shelve perennial rivalry

By Maureen Johnson

LONDON, (AP): Drilling an undersea tunnel to link them permanently and planning their first joint nuclear missile, France and Britain have shelved their perennial rivalry to embark on a new era of cooperation.

But the mutual suspicion that have always bedeviled the on-again, off-again alliance promise to be an enduring backdrop to the unprecedented Anglo-French programme.

"It is British cash rather than expertise that the French government is after," the Times of London carped immediately after the Dec 14 unveiling of plans by the two countries to develop an air-launched nuclear missile.

Sniping

The missile, which British Tornado or French Mirage warplanes could fire into enemy territory, results partly from the superpower agreement to eliminate their medium-range missiles from Europe.

Apprehension that further Soviet-American arms treaties could lead to the withdrawal of US forces from Europe is also pushing West Germany and France closer on defence.

Some analysts believe the Anglo-French missile project could lead eventually to the formation of a British-French nuclear force for Europe.

At present, the forces are

totally separate, the French weapons are not integrated into the 16-nation Nato alliance and Britain and France do not, for example, divide up patrol areas to avoid duplication.

On a more peaceful front, the \$6-billion (\$10.8-billion) channel tunnel is due for completion in 1993, and marks the realisation of a project first proposed nearly two hundred years ago during the time of Emperor Napoleon.

That was the era when Britain and France last went to war against each other. But nearly two centuries on, the relationship remains far from easy.

Together, the British and French invaded the Suez Canal area in 1956 and were forced to withdraw under pressure from the United States and the Soviet Union.

Since then it has been mainly cross-channel sniping with an occasional showdown. In 1963, French President Charles de Gaulle, suspicious of Britain's close relationship with the United States, vetoed its application to join the European Economic Community. Britain joined 10 years later. But the French have always distrusted Britain's commitment to Europe.

Together, Britain and France built a supersonic airliner in the 1970s, but wrangled long over whether to call it Concord or the French equivalent, Concorde. France won.

King Bhumibol remains the most popular figure

Key to Thai stability

By Denis D. Gray

BANGKOK, (AP): After more than four difficult decades weathering Thai government coups, revolutions in neighbouring countries and the problems of local development, King Bhumibol Adulyadej has remained the dominant and probably the most popular figure in the country.

Thailand is now in the midst of an 18-month celebration of his 60th birthday, marked Dec 5, and record span on the throne. On July 2, 1988, the King will have reigned for 42 years and 33 days, longer than any other in Thai history.

Palace officials are seeking to dispel rumours that the King may abdicate after the mid-1988 milestone.

"I don't think he will ever abdicate in the true sense of the word," said a key aide to the King, Tongnoi Tongyai. "When you become king, you remain responsible for the happiness of the people forever."

Stability

Political scientists like Sukhumthand Parihatra believe the King's retirement would deal a damaging blow to the Thai political system. Many assert he has been the key to stability through eight domestic coups, 10 constitutions and upheavals in neighbouring Indochina.

Some also express concern that if he were to step down, in-

fighting, military resurgents and heightened corruption could follow in this fledgling democracy. His successor would be formally selected by a privy council.

King Bhumibol designs dams, composes jazz tunes and speaks five languages. Slim, bespectacled and impassive in public, the monarch cuts an imposing figure amid the pomp of ancient ceremonies.

Although a constitutional monarch — Thailand threw out absolute rule in 1932 — the King has intervened in moments of national crisis, and political analysts generally agree any government leader opposed to him could not hold on to power.

When dissident Army officers staged a 1981 power grab, the King's pointed departure from Bangkok spelled a rapid end to the would-be coup. During a 1973 student revolt against a dictatorial trio of leaders, he halted mounting bloodshed by engineering exile for the military strongmen. In the embattled streets, radical marchers carried portraits of Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara — and the King.

Base

The King's power base is rooted in a mass following and an unbroken, 750-year-long monarchical tradition. For centuries, the King was regarded as an infallible deity.

The King's birthday has been marked with a procession of

ceremony rarely matched in modern Asia. There have been birthday projects worth millions of dollars to aid the rural poor, beautify Bangkok and preserve tradition.

The celebrations are being enlivened by recent good fortune in Thailand: a robust economic performance, a record influx of tourists and unprecedented political stability. Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda, who owes a good deal of his staying power to the King, has held the office since 1980 — longer than any other leader in modern Thai history.

The King was born in Boston, where his father was studying medicine at Harvard University, and was sent off to a Swiss school where fast cars and saxophone playing often took precedence over studies. The mysterious shooting death in 1946 of his brother, King Ananda Mahidol, propelled the inexperienced teenager to the throne and into the coups and political machinations of the 1950s.

The King eventually grew in stature and political acumen amid internal political turmoil. Around Thailand, communist revolutions, independence struggles and drives for democracy toppled the bluebloods of Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. Today, the only other Asian hereditary monarchs are in Bhutan, Brunei, Japan and Nepal.

"There are some in the universities who think the monarchy is

Hong Kong is gradually 'taking over' China

By Harry Blaney and Julia Moore

IN 1997, Hong Kong will leave the British Empire and revert to China. In theory, nothing important will change. China basically says it will permit Hong Kong to run its own affairs except defence and external relations.

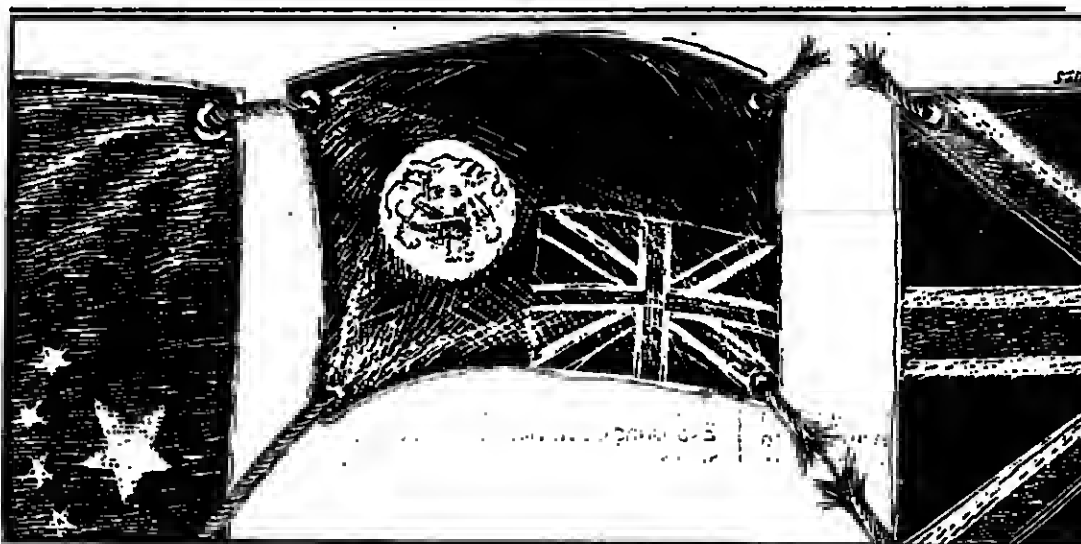
At first, the agreement to return Hong Kong to China sent shock waves through the business community. Then business picked up and went on — almost as usual — and Hong Kong's economy is now booming. But deep down, something is different.

According to one survey, about 50 per cent of Hong Kong's educated, professional class intends to emigrate before 1997. Already, thousands have left for Canada, Australia, or the United States. But for the vast majority of Chinese poor or working class, there are no alternatives to staying.

At first glance, there could be no greater contrast between the affluence and capitalism found in Hong Kong and the professed communism in Peking. The simplistic view is that Hong Kong is doomed. It will slowly metamorphose into a pale imitation of its former self as 1997 approaches and thereafter.

Yet, if one travels in southern China — especially Canton,

Without Hong Kong Beijing's economic miracle would have been only a shadow of its present reality



Shanghai, and the so-called "special economic zones" established by the reformist Communist Party leaders under Deng Xiaoping — the impression is that Hong Kong is taking over China.

Standard

Substantial development in the region is spurred by either trade with Hong Kong or by investment from the crown colony. There is also increasing disparity in southern China bet-

ween the new rich and those outside the boom. Food prices are quickly rising. But overall economic progress in the area has been significant. Living standards are much improved.

Hong Kong's entrepreneurial spirit is taking over Shanghai's streets, which are filling up with "private" shops and businesses. It is no secret that many wealthy businessmen live in China and their numbers are growing as China continues to

open to the West.

Close ties already exist between Hong Kong's wealthy and their mainland Chinese business and financial counterparts. Without Hong Kong, China's economic miracle would have been only a shadow of its present reality.

Hong Kong banks raised more than \$1 billion in loans for projects in China during the first half of this year — more than double the figure recorded for

the whole of 1985. And China's property holdings in Hong Kong are officially valued at \$1.3 billion, but may be twice that amount. Thus, it is in China's interest not to destroy Hong Kong's prosperity.

Future

Hong Kong is a house of cards held together by confidence in the behaviour and predictability of Chinese authorities over a very long period. Political upheavals, or a disruption in progress toward reforming and opening China's economy, would certainly undercut faith in Hong Kong's destiny.

The future of both Hong Kong and China is tied to the Chinese Communist Party's ability to continue steady progress toward reform; to contain popular resentment against growing disparity in wealth; and to restrain "conservative" revolutionary forces in China who fear the influence of Western decadence and rampant capitalism on domestic communism. The results of the recent party congress indicate that reform remains the country's top priority. But the Congress also showed that opposition still exists and that the future is less than certain.

The question for Hong Kong and China is: will the marriage bring about what they both want?

The Christian Science Monitor.

Officially the independent labour union is banned

Solidarity determined to play its role

By John Daniszewski

GDANSK, Poland, (AP): The Polish independent labour union Solidarity has been technically illegal for six years, but Lech Walesa and other leaders remain determined to play a role in shaping national policy.

Despite the official banning of Solidarity in the December 1981 martial-law crackdown, the flinty determination of union loyalists, together with a measure of tolerance by authorities, has allowed the leadership of the East Bloc's first legally independent trade union to survive.

Solidarity's task now, Walesa says, is to take a new look at union activities and show more initiative in response to official programmes for reform.

"We have to start fighting by means of (proposing) solutions as soon as possible," said Walesa in an interview in the comfortable parlor of St. Brygidy's parish house in his home city of Gdansk.

Meet

The government proposes a consultative council, ombudsman and a lot of other things, while on this side there are no proposals.

Despite its official banning, after a year of legal existence, the union today has a newly formed national executive commission under Walesa. Its members' names are well known to authorities. Its press spokesman routinely answers reporters' questions by telephone, and occasionally hosts news conferences in his Warsaw apartment.

A human rights monitoring committee produces a weekly report on arrests and imprisonments. Visiting Western dig-

nitaries meet with top Solidarity leaders. Union positions are addressed regularly, although caustically, by the government spokesman.

On the other hand, police still block pro-Solidarity demonstrations. Sometimes resorting to violence. And they monitor the activities of union members, with low-level activists often subject to detention or fines.

Activists say, however, that the unwritten rule since a 1986 political amnesty is that no ranking Solidarity official will be arrested for union activities, so as not to create martyrs to galvanise critics at home and abroad.

How the union should cope with this quasi-tolerated status has been a difficult topic for Solidarity. Union members agree. Polish leader Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski has declared that the ruling Communist Party, known as the Polish United Workers' Party, and not the opposition will be the engine of reform in Poland.

Work

Heartened that government-proposed political and economic reforms failed to win a legally binding mandate in a Nov 29 nationwide referendum, Solidarity announced that it now wants to work increasingly within the system.

Walesa, in the interview, said the union has celebrated social and political liberalisations in Poland over the past year, but has done too little to promote fresh ideas of its own and the formation of independent organisations to bring "pluralism" to Polish life.

"Every Pole, if he wants and has a little courage, may be pluralistic. Even further, he may oppose the system. And if you do it wisely you don't get imprisoned or murdered," Walesa

said.

The problem now is to win for independent people the right to organise into groups that will work in their own specialised fields for a better Poland, he said.

When reminded that such groups have had difficulty getting off the ground in recent months — a newly formed Polish socialist party had meetings broken up by police and a proposed nationwide pro-business economic society was hamstrung in attempts to gain legal status — Walesa shrugged and said: "So what?"

He pointed to the position Solidarity has carved out for itself despite years under an official ban.

"This means you can do something," he said. He added, "if there are any movements that need us, we are at their disposal."

Although acknowledging divisions in his ranks on this point, Walesa said Solidarity should not be trying to return to its heyday, when it represented a single opposition of 10 million members that flexed its muscles through mass demonstrations.

Approach

"It was all very fine, but that was in 1980," he said. "And it is not in the street that we shall find a solution. Because in the street we can either beat up somebody, or get beaten up ourselves."

The new approach is to chip away at government restrictions, taking advantage of what liberalisations are offered and encouraging different approaches. Walesa and other union officials said.

"We are making use of the situation and we are forcing the system to change," he said. "But I want to stress once again that we do not want to take over power ... We would probably

govern worse than they do."

Solidarity spokesman Janusz Onyszkiewicz said the union might support candidates in upcoming elections to local people's councils, although the government has said that as an illegal organisation Solidarity cannot "perform any public function."

Walesa said Solidarity already has helped bring greater pluralism. Noting the establishment of the consultative council, with several independent voices to advise Jaruzelski, and the naming of an ombudsman to hear citizens' grievances, he said: "Nobody gives you such a thing as a present. This is forced, but without an army or shooting."

"We even have an ally in our big brother, who also says reform," said Walesa referring to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Afraid

The government denies that Solidarity deserves any credit for reforms. It says the union cannot hope to re-enter the public arena without acknowledging responsibility for bringing Poland to the brink of anarchy in the early 1980s and accepting present "realities," including the Communist Party's leading role.

Government spokesman Jerzy Urban said last week that Solidarity activists themselves recognise they are "weak, lost and out of touch with the masses." He said this explains recent statements that the union wants to shift directions.

Zbigniew Romaszewski, who heads Solidarity's human rights monitoring committee, said police seem to have a hands-off policy towards the leading 100 or so Solidarity activists. But low-level people, who distribute underground leaflets or take part

in demonstrations, are held for up to 48 hours and then given steep fines or have property confiscated, he said.

Occasionally, there have been beatings or other forms of intimidation, he said.

In addition, 15-20 people in prison on non-political charges ranging from draft evasion to sabotage should be counted as political prisoners, Romaszewski said, disputing government statements that Poland has no political prisoners.

The Christian Science Monitor.

Israeli expulsions nothing novel

TEL AVIV, (UPI): The Israeli military has been deporting Arabs accused of leading "subversive activity" in the occupied territories since soon after Israel seized the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the 1967 Six Day war.

A spokesman for the Israel defence forces said no accurate count has been kept of the number of Palestinians deported from Israel since 1967, but said 19 have been banished since August 1985.

Military sources also estimated that about 100 Arabs were deported since 1979.

Israeli military officials will not discuss how the deportations are done, citing security concerns, but sources say the usual method is to take the Arabs to the Allenby Bridge and have them walk across to Jordan.

Prefer

Others have also been taken to Israel's barren southern Arava region and likewise told to walk across to Jordan.

The sources said the military prefers to send deportees to Jordan because those Arabs who lived in the West Bank were granted Jordanian nationality when Amman ruled over the territory between 1948 and 1967.

In at least one instance, the sources said, a deported Arab was taken to the edge of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon, and told to walk north into Lebanon.

Israel established the three-to-nine-mile (five- to 15-km) zone after it withdrew from Lebanon in 1985. About 1,000 Israeli soldiers and 2,000 members of Israel's surrogate South Lebanon Army patrol the area.

The Jerusalem Post reported Sunday that several deportees were later allowed back, including a Palestinian woman leader, Zleika Shihabi, who was expelled after the 1967 war and allowed to return to East Jerusalem a year later.

Former Ramallah Mayor Nadeem Zarou, who was deported in 1969, was allowed to return in 1981. While Zarou was away he served as a minister in a Jordanian government, the newspaper said.

"Crucial of Israel's use of deportation 'maintain' it is illegal under international law, including the Geneva Convention of 1949 that forbids the deportation of civilian populations in occupied territories."

Ruling

But an Israeli supreme court ruled in the past that the Geneva Convention was misinterpreted and that Israeli precedent for deportation dates back to British rule, the newspaper said.

It quoted 1945 British mandate defence regulations as allowing deportation for the purpose of "securing the public safety, the defence of Palestine, the maintenance of public order or in the suppression of mutiny, rebellion or riots."

Sunday's military announcement said the nine people ordered deported were "leading activists and organisers involved in incitement and subversive activity."

Ugandans expelled

NAIROBI, Jan 4, (AP): Kenya last week expelled the daughter of former Uganda dictator Idi Amin and 12 other Ugandans, the principal immigration officer confirmed today.

"The Ugandans were asked to leave the country because they were here illegally," Milton Ole Ncharo said.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1477 — Swiss defeat and kill Charles the Bold of Burgundy at Battle of Nancy.

1762 — Tsarina Elizabeth of Russia dies, is succeeded by Peter III.

1899 — Britain and Turkey conclude treaty of Dardanelles.

1895 — Discovery of X-ray is announced by German physicist Wilhelm Roentgen.

1899 — General Aguinaldo demands Philippine independence from United States.

1919 — Communist Spartacist revolt begins in Berlin; Nationalist Socialist Party formed in Germany.

1929 — King Alexander I suppresses Yugoslav constitution and establishes dictatorship.

1961 — Military government in Peru arrests hundreds of people accused of being communists.

1964 — Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Benedictos of Jerusalem meet in holy land on Mount of Olives — first meeting in five centuries between a Roman Catholic Pope and Eastern Orthodox church patriarch.

1969 — Soviet Union launches unmanned spacecraft toward Venus and predicts it will arrive in area of the planet in four months.

1974 — British ring London's Heathrow Airport with troops and tanks as anti-terrorist alert goes into effect.

1977 — Syria says it will relax restrictions imposed on 4,500 Syrian Jews.

1986 — Arab nations throw support behind Libya in event of attack by United States or Israel in retaliation for terrorist attacks on two airports.

1987 — Cheering students in China burn hundreds of copies of the newspaper Peking Daily to protest government publication's harsh criticism of student demonstrations.

هكذا مات الأمل

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Saudi non-oil exports up

RIYADH, Jan 4, (Opecna): Saudi Arabia's non-oil exports during 1987 amounted to \$2.51 billion, an increase of 25 per cent over the previous year. Minister of Finance and National Economy Mohammed Ab-Alkhalil said in a statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

He put the Kingdom's total investment in major development projects since the start of the first five-year plan at \$244.32 billion.

He was hopeful that the new \$37.70 billion Saudi budget would boost the economy and help deal effectively with both development requirements and the present economic situation.

Ab-Alkhalil said that due to global depression, the country's oil revenues had fallen from \$88.12 billion in 1981-82 to less than \$18.70 billion in 1987.

The minister stated that the government had decided to reduce public expenditure by \$5.02 billion, revise customs duties to raise 2.05 billion and issue treasury bonds of different maturities for \$8 billion.

He noted that from 1970 to 1986 the government had spent \$50.20 billion on roads and air and sea ports, \$26.43 billion on municipal projects, \$25.37 billion on public housing, \$20.56 billion on agriculture, \$20.82 billion on industry, \$15.75 billion on electricity and \$11.08 billion on telecommunications.

Ab-Alkhalil said that the real estate fund set up by the government provided the citizens a total of \$50.73 billion and those for social and youth development accounted for \$5.23 billion.

The minister said that in 1987 a surplus of \$3.74 billion had been realised.

Iranians to negotiate pipeline deal with Turkey

ANKARA, Jan 4, (AP): A delegation of Iranian technical experts is to arrive today to start final negotiations for a pipeline which would pump Iranian crude oil through Turkey.

Nezih Berkman, general manager of Turkey's pipeline company, Botas, said: "We expect to reach a final decision whether to build a Turco-Iranian pipeline or not."

The talks are expected to last about two weeks, he said.

Various plans for natural and crude oil pipelines have been considered between Turkey and Iran.

Berkman said the latest pipeline project under consideration would bring crude from the Ahwaz oilfields in south western Iran to a Mediterranean terminal in Turkey, a distance of about 1,500 km (900 miles).

He said a pipeline to reach Turkey's Black Sea coast, reportedly the route favoured by Iran, was not under consideration.

Turkey already has two parallel pipelines, one built in 1977 and the other last year, bringing Iraqi oil to a terminal at Yumurtalik at the eastern corner of Turkey's Mediterranean coast.

British Airways announces new deal for business traveller

Bid to make BA the best in business

By M.C. Bose

BRITISH Airways organised a reception on Sunday at a local hotel to launch an entirely new standard of business class travel — Club World and Club Europe. The new deal for the business traveller reflects an entire re-examination of flight service by British Airways with the aim of keeping the airline ahead of its competitors.

The Club World and Club Europe totally revamp the products the company currently offers flying on business both longhaul and in Europe. The move follows one of the most searching market research operations in the history of business travel.

The package also includes new designs for the airline's business classes, new separate cabins and seats on board longhaul aircraft, new airport lounges and a whole series of other innovations designed to take time and hassle out of travelling. It will be marketed as a new mark of respect for the business traveller.

The new developments also signal a new approach by British Airways to the way it markets itself, with the new business classes the first of a range of brands that will be launched by the airline in a bid to encourage greater consumer loyalty.

About £25 million has been allocated to enhance its worldwide travel products. In return the airline is looking to win a bigger slice of business travel market, a segment which already

brings in around a third of the company's revenue, worth almost £1,000 million a year.

Announcing the new deal, Dubai-based BA's regional sales manager for Middle East Niged Page said: "The whole operation is aimed at getting across the message as widely as possible in a way that reflects the style and positioning of the new products." The overall effect of the presentation will be highly professional. The look and style of Club World and Club Europe will be brought to life and put across in a strong and confident business-orientated way, added a senior BA official.

Sir Colin Marshall, British Airways chief executive, called the multi-million pound project "a new mark of respect for business travellers."

From today the present Super Club on intercontinental routes will be superseded by Club World, a service tailored to the life style of the longhaul business traveller in the 1990s.

At the same time, services for 6,000 Clubclass passengers every day in Europe will be rapidly improved with the birth of Club Europe.

Every aspect of a business traveller's encounter with the airline has been reviewed to establish Club as a unique blend of British style and service.

Seating comfort was a prime requirement and interior layouts on almost all the airline's 166-plus aircraft are being reconfigured to offer more legroom.

After trials of five prototypes,



Nigel Page

some 2,500 new reclining seats are being fitted in 32 longhaul Boeing 747s and nine TriStars at a cost of £4 million.

Fixed partitions to create separate exclusive cabins will replace the present movable curtain dividers between Club and Economy on all flights.

Express check-in, valet parking, swifter baggage delivery, priority reservations tailored to customer needs are being introduced.

Sir Colin said: "We have spent millions in recent years on improving our services, on the ground and in the air. But we cannot afford the luxury of complacency."

"In a fiercely competitive world, we need the best business class if we wish to be the best airline, hence this huge investment in manpower technology."

Staff throughout the airline have helped create Club World

and Club Europe, and will also be a key ingredient in their appeal.

Says Sir Colin: "Our competitors use the same aircraft as we do. Seats can be copied. Legroom and standards of services can be matched."

"They cannot copy what is unique to British Airways — our staff's personal style of service. That sets us above the rest and will keep us there."

Announcing the changes today, Jim Harris, Director of Marketing, said: "When we launched longhaul Club seven years ago, it was unrivalled."

"The market never stands still and our customers have changed. Our current business class was near the end of its life cycle. We needed a total rethink in this, arguably our most important market, before rivals could catch up."

"Club World and Club Europe will now keep us in front where we belong and intend to stay."

Customers Target customers are the world's most frequent business flyers, usually men in their 40s, in very senior positions, and on average UK salaries of £35,000 a year, the top one per cent of income earners.

They fly on business more than 20 times a year, and know what rival airlines offer as well as British Airways.

Says Harris: "These sophisticated, successful people have earned their status. We, in turn, must earn their respect — by offering a service to match."

Design consultants went back to basics to produce an "understated, contemporary style reflecting the intelligent thoughtful nature of the service," right down to the finest detail, even baggage tags.

Goods Leading young British artists were picked to illustrate menus, and in-flight duty free goods include items chosen for uniqueness and looks.

"Intelligent, creative design is now recognised as essential in developing a successful business; a lesson learned by High Street shops," says Harris.

"People are more visually aware and aesthetically critical of their world. Today's business passenger expects the appearance of excellence. Club World and Club Europe, in design, mood and service, will deliver this."

The creation of Club has taken a year of development by every part of the airline. Market researchers interviewed passengers on what they expected and what rivals offered. And many praised British Airways' existing service.

"We will continue to ask our regulars how we can meet and exceed their needs still better," said Harris.

"But we will not just be looking at the top end of the market. We are already studying both our longhaul and European Economy products."

"Our aim is to create strong, high quality British Airways brands which our customers will demand by name every time they fly."

Sri Lankan minister sees economic progress if peace restored

COLOMBO, Jan 4, (Reuters): Finance Minister Ronnie De Mel says that more than enough money is available to resuscitate Sri Lanka's war-battered economy in 1988, but added "all the money in the world will not help if the violence continues."

In an interview with Reuters over the weekend, De Mel predicted economic growth on the Indian Ocean island could reach five per cent in 1988 compared to three per cent in 1987 — but only if there was peace.

"We would have no problem in increasing growth and cutting inflation from a current eight per cent if the violence ends," said De Mel at his estate outside the capital, Colombo.

Doomed "The crux of the matter is the political situation on which the entire economic future is based. We will be doomed if the war continues," he warned.

De Mel, who stressed the need for a political solution to Sri Lanka's troubles, said he was hopeful some political stability would return in the next six months.

"I cannot be certain about peace but I feel this is possible if we make some effort to solve problems of extremist youth," he said.

"People want elections. And after my statement they feel the government will hold elections although they had doubts

South Korean economy growing

SEOUL, Jan 4, (AP): South Korea's Gross National Product grew by 12.2 per cent in real terms this year, according to preliminary figures released last week by the Bank of Korea.

It would be the second consecutive year of double-digit GNP growth and the world's highest in 1987, the Central Bank said. South Korea's GNP grew by 12.5 per cent in 1986.

Oteiba sees rise in oil prices

ABU DHABI, Jan 4, (AP): Oil Minister Mana Saeed Oteiba was quoted today as predicting that spot oil prices will rise "within a few days" to the Opec benchmark price of \$18 a barrel.

In an interview with the state-run Al-Ithad daily, Oteiba said prices had already improved to nearly \$17 a barrel because of adherence to production restraints and pricing policy by Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' 13 member states.

Credibility "The month of January will be the true test for Opec's credibility," Oteiba said.

"If the Opec member states continue to adhere to the production and pricing policies and refrain from offering any discounts, then the spot market price will rise within a few days to \$18, the official Opec price."

The organisation's production and pricing policy, designed to defend the \$18 price for crude oil, was forged at the biannual Opec ministerial meeting in Vienna last month.

Oteiba said a price slide following the December conference was "illogical and not based on economic grounds."

He blamed it on pressures by unidentified companies to force producing states to undercut the prices.

Prices recently rebounded above the \$16 figure with reports that Opec members were restricting their output and were firm on upholding the \$18 price.

He said he was confident that

Opec states would resist the pressures, "even if that led to a decrease in output by some states below quota levels."

That, he added, would "inevitably lead to the restoration of spot prices to the official level and even exceed it in the coming days."

Oteiba stressed that his country, one of those accused in the

past of oversubscribing output quotas, was "committed to the spirit and text" of the Opec resolutions.

He said his country had resisted "pressures by importing oil companies" to sell at a discount.

"Whoever wants to buy our oil, that's our price. If they don't like it, then we have no oil to sell," he said.

World Business Summary

Adnoc chief praises Opec agreement

ABU DHABI, Jan 4, (Opecna): Sheikh Tahnoon Bin Mohamed, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (Adnoc), has said that the Opec agreement on oil production and prices has brought "reasonable stability" to the market. In a statement on the occasion of Adnoc's 16th anniversary, which also coincides with 16 years of independence for the United Arab Emirates, he paid tribute to the company's achievements in all sectors of the oil industry, including exploration, exploitation and the establishment of onshore and offshore projects. He said Adnoc had successfully overcome the challenges posed by the oil market situation and made "great strides" in a difficult environment.

Sheikh Tahnoon said Adnoc's progress constituted a substantial part of the advance made by the country itself. The company had pulled through the crisis of low oil prices and was moving forward. The chairman noted with satisfaction that Adnoc now employed UAE nationals in key positions. Adnoc general manager Soheil Al Mazrui said in a message that the company had been able to market its entire share of crude oil, natural gas, as well as excess production from Adnoc refineries. The Ruwais Refinery operated at 103 per cent of its designed capacity and the one at Um Al Nar at 110 per cent with an average production of 123,000 b/d. Al Mazrui said seismic surveys carried out by the company up to October 1987 covered 6,928 km in all areas. Additional discoveries of natural gas had been made and project implementation was on schedule.

Hunt Oil Co. to develop second Yemen oilfield

NICOSIA, Jan 4, (AP): The US Hunt Oil Co. plans to start production at a second oilfield in North Yemen this year, an oil weekly reported today. The respected Middle East Economic Survey, published in Nicosia, said the new Azal field in the northeast of the country has a tested output of 5,400 barrels a day. North Yemen's first commercial field at Afif, 9 miles (15 km) from Azal, was discovered by the Hunt Co of Texas in 1984. The impoverished Red Sea country began producing oil late last year. While it is unlikely to ever become a major producer, oil revenue will do much to help modernise the country. North Yemen's output was expected to reach 135,000 barrels a day later this year and increase to around 400,000 barrels a day later. The Azal field will be linked to a 270-mile (440-km) export pipeline from Afif to the Red Sea that will have an initial capacity of 225,000 barrels a day. The weekly reported that Hunt was continuing drilling operations in an off-shore Red Sea concessions even though France's Elf-Aquitaine pulled out of a partnership after a series of dry holes. The survey said that the US Exxon Corp a partner with Hunt Oil in the Marib-Jawf region, will start drilling within the next two weeks in an 8,500-square-mile (22,000 sq.-km) concession in central North Yemen. The weekly reported that joint ventures in other parts of the country involving CFP-Total of France and Texaco and the Geneva-based Consolidated Petroleum International Corp are under study.

RELATIVE TO THE RECENT CRASH OF THE N.Y. STOCK MARKET & ITS INTERNATIONAL RAMIFICATIONS, IN WHAT INVESTMENT AREA WILL THE NEXT BREAK IN THE NATIONAL INFLATION BUBBLE LIKELY OCCUR — THE ONE THAT DESTROYS EQUAL OR GREATER WEALTH?

Consider these in financial plans:

* Authoritative reports tell that America is rapidly changing from a wealth producing economy to a predominantly service one, thanks to "advanced currency debasement & other official abuses". Investment implications here?

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China's untapped desert beckons oil giants

BEIJING, Jan 4, (Reuters): The shifting sands of China's Taklamakan desert are beckoning the oil giants of the West.

Disappointed with poor results from Chinese offshore fields, foreign drillers want to try what some say may be the world's largest untapped oil basin.

Occupying an area about the size of France, the Taklamakan desert stretches across the north-western region of Xinjiang. Local people call it the "sea of death."

Offshore For, while China has thrown open offshore oilfields and 10 southern provinces to development by foreign companies, Xinjiang stays closed.

A few firms supplied equipment and did seismic surveys, but no foreign drilling has begun.

The region's strategic location between Mongolia, the Soviet Union, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India was a factor behind reluctance to open it up, diplomats said.

"It's one of the world's unkindest places but it could be richest too," said an oilman just back from there.

In winter, Western seismic crews there stop work for two months as temperatures plunge to minus 3 degrees Centigrade, and a geologist who has made several survey trips to Xinjiang said sand dunes 400 metres (1,300 ft) high could bury oil

rigs.

"We could sink millions of dollars in drilling and not come up with a drop of oil. It's extremely risky," he said.

But oilmen from several Western firms, who asked not to be identified, said they would have left China by now had it not been for the lure of the desert. An informed source said British petroleum, Chevron, Conoco, Texaco and Shell were keen to start developing Xinjiang.

Failed "The carrot of Xinjiang is what holds Western oil companies in China," a diplomat said, noting that BP failed to find oil in years of offshore exploration and that no foreign firm had really struck it rich.

Dou Bingwen, director of the Petroleum Ministry's International Cooperation Department, declined to comment on when, if ever, foreign firms would be able to drill in Xinjiang.

"Now we are mainly depending on our own strength in developing this region. Almost all major international oil companies have been to the region. Generally speaking they are interested," he said in an interview.

China and Foreign partners were exploring ways to cooperate but no detailed talks on contract terms had started, Dou added.

He said Xinjiang needed a tremendous amount of capital to

exploit its fields and a pipeline of more than 2,000 km (1,200 miles) to carry oil to ports and refineries on China's east coast.

Denied But he denied a suggestion by one oil source that China is in the early stages of talking about raising \$5 billion from Japan to develop Xinjiang.

Japan is a major buyer of Chinese oil. In July, the trading house C. Itoh and Co agreed to buy crude oil and oil products valued at over \$1.4 billion over 10 years.

Despite being the world's sixth oil producer, China has chronic energy shortages and, according to state councillor Kang Shi'en will need an annual 200 million tonnes of crude by the year 2000 for its domestic needs.

Dou said output this year would be 134 million tonnes, more than 90 per cent from onshore fields in eastern China.

Future

Petroleum Minister Wang Tao says: "The future of China's oil industry is in the Northwest, specifically Xinjiang region."

China oil journal quoted him as telling a national oil conference in October that Xinjiang held an important, strategic position in the oil industry.

The newspaper said Xinjiang's three large fields held 28 billion tonnes of oil, one third of China's total. Promising, high-yield oil and gas test wells had

been drilled along the edge of the Taklamakan, it added.

But Western geologists said official estimates of Xinjiang's reserves were theoretical as few surveys had been carried out.

Diplomats and oil experts said China must decide soon on its strategy for Xinjiang as a national energy crisis loomed.

Production at the two major fields in the east — Daqing and Shengli — were close to peak levels, offshore finds were limited, and only one onshore contract had been signed with a foreign company in southern China.

Reverse

"China looks as if it will be a net oil importer in the mid 1990s ... nothing they can do now will reverse that. But if they open up the north-west then by early 2000 they might start to get it delivered," a Western oilman added.

The New China News agency said this month the state would invest a billion yuan (\$270 million) in 1988 in the Junggar basin in northern Xinjiang.

The region's total target for 1990, including the western Karamay field, was about 9.5 million tonnes, double current output, the agency said.

"The Chinese have struck strongly to the idea that they will do it themselves but are realising they will have to import technology at least," a Western diplomat said.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

LONDON
(Alpha Stocks)

NAME	LAST
ABBIE LFE	244/0
ALD LYONS	350/0
ARMSTRAD	115/0
ARGYLL GP	190/0
ASDA MFI	170/0
A B FOODS	296/0
BAA PP	95/0
BTR	279/0
BAT INDS	444/0
BARCLAYS	462/0
BASS	830/0
BEAZER	172/0
BEECHAMS	457/0
BET ORD	227/0
BICC PLC	344/0
BLUE ARW	102/0
BLUE CIRC	433/0
BOD GP	237/0
BPH INDS	260/0
BR COMM	315/0
BR AIRWAY	150/0
BR AEROSP	330/0
BR GAS PP	129/0
B.P.	258/0
B.P.-NEW	73/0
BR TELCOM	225/0
BRIT OIL	447/0
BUNZL	165/2
BURMAN OL	437/0
BURTON	223/0
CABLE&AIR	345/0
CADBURYS	242/0
COATS VTY	270/0
COMM UNI	347/0
CONS GOLD	917/0
COOKSON	522/0
COURTAULD	339/0
QALGETY	317/0
OEE CP	208/0
DIWONS	206/0
ENG CHINA	400/0
ENTER OIL	258/0
FERRANTI	87/0
FRISONS	260/0
GEN ACCIO	813/0
GEN ELEC	164/0
GLAXO	003/0
GRANDADA	303/0
GLOBE	128/0
GRAND NET	450/0
GUS A	120/0
GUARD RYL	839/4
GKN	290/0
GUINNESS	292/0
HMERSH A	520/0
HANSON	128/0
HAKER SIO	448/0
HAMLEY	93/0
HILLSDOWN	285/0

LONDON
(Beta Stocks)

NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
A.B. ELEC	360/0	360/0
APV PLC	125/0	128/0
AARONSON	110/0	110/0
AAH HDLG	310/0	312/0
ACATOS+HT	438/0	438/0
ADDISON G	94/0	95/0
ADVEST GP	288/0	288/0
AILESA	138/0	138/0
ALICE WRK	169/0	170/0
ALLIANCE	711/0	710/0
ALLO COLL	106/0	106/0
ALLO PLAN	44/0	44/0
AMARI PLC	143/0	143/0
AMEC PLC	315/0	314/0
AMER TRUS	103/0	104/0
AMERSHAM	441/0	442/0
ANGLIA TV	349/0	348/0
PLESSEY	70/0	71/0
U-APP HOL	341/0	342/0
APPLYEAR	315/0	313/0
APRICOT	96/0	96/0
ARMSTRONG	143/0	140/0
ANGLO O'S	345/0	346/0
AQUASCULT	275/0	270/0
ASHLEY L	125/0	125/0
AUTO SEC	243/0	243/0
AVIS EUR	258/0	255/0
AVON RUBB	625/0	625/0
BBA GP	151/0	152/0
BGL INTL	69/0	68/0
BIG INTL	375/0	373/0
BANKER IT	60/0	61/0
BK OF SCO	534/0	534/0
BARKER DO	147/0	148/0
BARRT DEV	174/0	173/0
B.WEHRILL	142/0	141/0
BEJAM GP	184/0	186/0
BELHAVEN	44/0	45/0
BELLWAY	181/0	183/0
BENROSE	181/0	183/0
BENLOX HD	36/0	36/0
U-BENNETT	34/0	35/0
BENTALLS	154/0	155/0
BERISFORD	296/0	297/0
BERKELEY	263/0	265/0
BLACK LE 2	20/2	20/0
BOASE MAS	242/0	241/0
BOODINGTO	140/0	140/0
BOOKER PL	385/0	385/0
BORTHWICK	46/0	46/0
BOUTER	352/0	351/0
BOUTROPPE	172/0	173/0
BRAWNER	232/0	231/0
BREIT CHE	118/0	119/0
BREIT MCR	288/0	288/0
BRIDON	155/0	153/0
BRITANNIA	943/0	950/0
BR ASSETS	60/4	61/0
BR-LIND CO	254/0	253/0
BR VITA	415/0	415/0
BRIXTON E	240/0	239/0

NEW YORK

NAME	OPEN	CLOSE
A BSCH COM	33/0	33/3
ATLANTIC R	69/2	69/2
AAR CORP	18/7	18/6
AETNA LIFE	45/3	45/2
ALASKA AIR	13/4	13/4
ALCAN ALUM	27/0	26/7
ALCO STAND	20/3	20/3
AM CAP SEC	24/5	24/4
AMER CYANA	41/7	41/2
AM FAMILY	14/1	14/1
AM HON PRO	72/4	72/6
AM STNDARD	36/6	36/4
AM STORES	51/6	50/4
AMER T T	27/3	27/1
AMOCO CP	69/4	69/1
AMP INC	47/0	46/7
AMPO PITT	13/6	13/5
AMR CORP	35/1	35/2
AMR GEN CO	31/4	31/6
AMRDA HESS	25/2	24/7
ANTHEM ELE	10/2	10/0
APACHE CP	7/4	7/4
APACHE INC	3/5	3/3
ARMCO INC	11/3	11/3
ASARCO INC	28/2	28/4
ASHLAND OIL	56/0	57/6
ATLS CORP	31/3	31/4
ATVER INT	21/1	21/2
AVNET INC	24/0	23/6
AVON PRODS	25/6	25/7
BELL ATLAN	64/6	65/0
BELL CAN E	28/5	28/4
BELL-HON	59/6	59/6
BETH STEEL	17/1	16/1
BEVERLY	7/2	7/1
BK BOSTON	22/2	22/4
BK ESTN-A	4/0	4/4
BK TR-NY	25/7	25/6
BANKER	6/7	6/7
BANKAM SPEC	6/4	6/3
BOEING	37/3	37/3
BOISE CASG	67/6	68/0
BORDEN	49/5	49/4
BORG-WARNR	40/5	40/5
BOWATER	29/6	29/4
BR YELECOM	42/4	42/1
BRIGGS-STY	27/0	27/0
BRIST-HYR	41/3	41/3
BRUNSWICK	15/2	14/6
BURNEY CP	12/0	11/7
C 3 INC	11/6	11/6
CABOT CORP	32/6	32/5
CAESARS UN	21/3	21/6
CALIF FRIE	20/7	20/7
CAS NAT NS	14/0	13/6
CAT-COOKS	18/5	18/4
CATERPILLA	62/0	62/0
CBI INC	20/1	19/7
CBS	159/6	157/0
CENTEL CP	35/0	35/1
CENTRO DAT	2/2	2/1
CHAMP INTL	34/3	34/4
CHAMP SPA	11/4	11/4
CHARTER CO	3/5	3/4
CHASE MANH	22/1	22/1
CHENIEO CP	33/0	33/2
CHENIEO NY	21/0	21/1
CHROM	40/1	39/5
CHRYSLER	22/4	22/2
CHRYSLER CORP	56/2	55/7
CIGNA FC CH	7/0	6/7
CIGNA CORP	44/4	43/7
CIN MILAC	20/7	20/7
CIR CIT	18/2	18/2
CITICORP	18/2	18/2
CLARK EQUI	24/3	24/1
COLORADO	27/6	27/6
CHRYSLER RES	1/4	1/4
CHRYSLER SP	27/7	27/7
CHRY PACIFIC	16/0	15/7
COACHING	2/4	2/0
COASTAL	26/0	26/0
COCA COLA	38/3	38/1
COLECO	3/7	3/7
COLEMAN CO	32/2	32/0
COLT INDS	39/2	39/2
COLUMB GAS	9/7	9/6
COMM EDIS	27/7	27/5
CONAGRA	25/5	25/3
CONS ED-HY	42/0	41/6
CONTINENTAL	39/2	38/8
CONTL ILLN	03	02
CONTEL CP	29/0	29/0
CONTR DATA	21/7	21/5
COOPER T-R	30/5	30/4
COOPER COR	8/5	8/4
CORNING GL	47/0	46/4
CRANE	21/6	21/7
CRAY RES	72/4	70/6
CULLINET	6/0	5/7
DANIEL IND	6/4	6/4
DATA GEN	23/7	23/5
DAYPOINT	4/6	4/5
DAYTON HUB	28/4	28/0
OIG EQUIP	136/6	135/0
DEERE-CO	34/7	35/1
DELTA AIR	37/1	37/1
DIAMOND SH	8/6	8/6
DIEBOLD	37/4	37/4
DISNEY W	60/2	59/2
DOVER CORP	62/5	62/5
DOM CHEN	90/7	90/2
DOM JONES	29/5	29/7
DRESSER	26/0	26/2
DUKES POWER	43/1	42/7
DUN BRAD	54/4	54/7
DUPONT	87/5	87/3
DUCHESS	11/7	11/6
DYNAMICS	19/3	19/2
E SYSTEMS	27/2	26/6
EASTMAN K	50/0	49/0
EATON CORP	79/4	79/2
EMERY AIR	5/2	5/1
EMHART CP	20/6	21/0
ETHYL CP	18/6	18/4
EXON	38/7	38/2
FAM OOL ST	9/7	9/7
FED EXPRESS	40/3	39/7
FIELDCREST	14/2	14/3
FIN COR-AM	1/3	1/2
FIRESTONE	31/4	31/4
FMC CORP	34/0	33/6
FORD MOTOR	76/1	75/4
FORT HARR	34/6	34/4
FORBORD CO	23/0	23/1
FRCHLO IND	9/2	9/0
FST BANK	20/5	20/7
FST BOSTON	26/2	26/7
FST CHICAG	18/6	18/7
FST CTU BK	07	06
FST INTL BC	30/1	29/7
GAF CORP	44/6	45/0
GAINHEO CP	39/1	39/1
GALVESTON	1/6	1/5
GATX CORP	38/2	38/4
GCA CP	0	3/2
GEARHART	15	15
GEN OATA	4/1	4/1
GEN OYMAN	48/6	48/6
GEN ELECT	44/5	44/2
GEN HOST	8/0	7/7
GEN HOUSR	7/7	7/7
GEN INSTR	0	30/5

NEW YORK

195/0	195/0	A BSCH COM	33/0	33/3
443/0	450/0	ATLANTIC R	69/2	69/2
135/0	135/0	AAR CORP	18/7	18/6
146/0	147/0	AETNA LIFE	45/3	45/2
51/0	50/0	ALASKA AIR	13/4	13/4
174/0	175/0	ALCAN ALUM	27/0	26/7
380/0	380/0	ALCO STAND	20/3	20/3
77/0	77/0	AM CAP SEC	24/5	24/4
151/0	152/0	AMER CYANA	41/7	41/2
178/0	178/0	AM FAMILY	14/1	14/1
265/0	267/0	AM HON PRO	72/4	72/6
156/0	153/0	AM STNDARD	36/6	36/4
129/0	130/0	AM STORES	51/6	50/4
225/0	225/0	AMER T T	27/3	27/1
173/0	172/0	AMOCO CP	69/4	69/1
143/0	145/0	AMP INC	47/0	46/7
36/0	38/0	AMPO PITT	13/6	13/5
733/0	730/0	AMR CORP	35/1	35/2
12, 08	10, 00	AMR GEN CO	31/4	31/6
207/0	205/0	AMRDA HESS	25/2	24/7
115/0	115/0	ANTHEM ELE	10/2	10/0
150/0	150/0	APACHE CP	7/4	7/4
330/0	331/0	APACHE PET	3/5	3/3
61/0	61/0	ARMCO INC	11/3	11/3
117/0	118/0	ASARCO INC	28/2	28/4
90/0	91/0	ASHLAND OIL	56/0	57/6
45/0	45/0	ATLS CORP	31/3	31/4
87/0	87/0	ATVER INT	21/1	21/2
15/0	15/0	AVNET INC	24/0	23/6
656/0	657/0	AVON PRODS	25/6	25/7
94/0	94/0	BELL ATLAN	64/6	65/0
17/0	17/0	BELL CAN E	28/5	28/4
52/0	52/0	BELL-HOM	59/6	59/6
301/0	301/0	BETH STEEL	17/1	16/1
230/0	229/0	BEVERLY	7/2	7/1
68/0	68/0	BK BOSTON	22/2	22/4
101/0	101/0	BK ESTN-A	0	4/4
371/0		BK H-YORK	25/7	25/6
255/0	256/0	BK TR-NY	33/0	31/6
340/0	340/0	BANKAMER	6/7	6/7
613/0	312/0	BANKAM SPEC	6/4	6/3
31/4	62/0	BOEING	37/3	37/3
223/0	218/0	BOISE CASG	67/6	68/0
91/0	93/0	BORDEN	49/5	49/4
18/2	19/0	BORG-WARNR	0	43/5
169/0	169/0	BOWATER	29/6	29/4
0	169/0	BR YELECOM	42/4	42/1
81/0	81/0	BRIGGS-STR	27/0	27/0
160/0	160/0	BRIST-HYR	41/3	41/3
189/0	188/0	BRUNSWICK	15/2	14/6
190/0		BURNEY CP	12/0	11/7
317/0	318/0	C 3 INC	11/6	11/6
618/0		CABOT CORP	32/6	32/6
11/0	11/0	CAESARS UN	21/3	21/3
67/0	68/0	CAROLI FRE	20/7	20/7
351/0	350/0	CAS NAT GS	14/0	13/6
328/0	326/0	CAS-COOKE	18/5	18/4
173/0	173/0	CATERPILLA	62/0	62/0
116/0	117/0	CBI IND	20/1	19/7
288/0	287/0	CBT	159/6	157/0
158/0	158/0	CENTEL CP	35/0	35/1
33/0	34/0	CENTRO DAT	2/2	2/1
		CHAMP INTL	34/3	34/4
		CHAMP SPA	11/4	11/4
		CHRYSLER	3/5	3/4
		CHRYSLER COR	8/5	8/4
		CIR CIT	47/0	46/4
		CLARK EQUI	24/3	24/1
		COLORADO	27/6	27/6
		CHRYSLER RES	1/4	1/4
		CHRYSLER SP	27/7	27/7
		CHRY PACIFIC	16/0	15/7
		COACHING	2/4	2/0
		COASTAL	26/0	26/0
		COCA COLA	38/3	38/1
		COLECO	3/7	3/7
		COLEMAN CO	32/2	32/0
		COLT INDS	39/2	39/2
		COLUMB GAS	9/7	9/6
		COMM EDIS	27/7	27/5
		CONAGRA	25/5	25/3
		CONS ED-HY	42/0	41/6
		CONTINENTAL	39/2	38/8
		CONTL ILLN	03	02
		CONTEL CP	29/0	29/0
		CONTR DATA	21/7	21/5
		COOPER T-R	30/5	30/4
		COOPER COR	8/5	8/4
		CORNING GL	47/0	46/4
		CRANE	21/6	21/7
		CRAY RES	72/4	70/6
		CULLINET	6/0	5/7
		DANIEL IND	6/4	6/4
		DATA GEN	23/7	23/5
		DAYPOINT	4/6	4/5
		DAYTON HUB	28/4	28/0
		OIG EQUIP	136/6	135/0
		DEERE-CO	34/7	35/1
		DELTA AIR	37/1	37/1
		DIAMOND SH	8/6	8/6
		DIEBOLD	37/4	37/4
		DISNEY W	60/2	59/2
		DOVER CORP	62/5	62/5

International Bond Highlights

London—This year is likely to be a tough one for the Eurobond market, with the dollar still vulnerable to sell-offs, and too many underwriting firms chasing too little underwriting business, analysts told Norma Cohen.

Amsterdam—Dutch bonds were expected to trade without a clear trend in moderate business this week as investors waited for clear signals of official efforts to stem the dollar's fall, dealers and analysts said.

Paris—Credit Lyonnais is to issue two bonds worth up to a maximum 1.5 billion francs in total, one fixed interest rate and one floating rate, the official bulletin said.

Paris—Cie de Navigation Mute is issuing a 1.2 billion French franc bond convertible into shares, paying a floating interest rate 0.30 pct below average money market rates for the Dec/Nov reference period, the official bulletin said.

Luxembourg—Denmark's Jutland Telephone A/S is raising 300 mln Luxembourg francs through a five-year private placement carrying a coupon of 7-1/2 pct and issued at par.

Luxembourg—Genilance SA is raising 300 mln Luxembourg francs through a six-year private placement carrying a coupon of 7-3/8 pct and issued at par, lead manager Banque Generale de Luxembourg SA said.

Interbank Rates

CALL	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS
LDN 8-5/8 3/8	8-11/16 9/16	9 8-15/16
FF 3.25/35	3.45/55	3.45/55
PAR 8-1/4 5/16	8 8-1/8	8-1/2 5/8
ZUR 7/8 1-1/8	2-1/4 2-1/2	2-5/8 2-7/8
BRX 3.05	6-5/8 3/4	6-11/16 13/16
ROM 9-5/8 10-1/8	10-1/2 11	10-3/4 11-1/4
AMS 3-1/4 3-3/4	4-3/8 4-1/2	4-1/2 4-5/8
TOK 3.7500 8125	3.8125 8750	3.8750 9375
EDU 6.31 6.56	6.75 6.87	6.875 7.000

Interest Rates

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	3 1/4	3-11/16
3 months	4-3/4	5-1/8
6 months	5-1/8	5-5/8
1 year	5-3/8	5-7/8

BOMBAY

PR. CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GNFC	30.25	30.25	31.50	MODIALKAL1	---	---
ACC 156.50	157	155	GRAY120	---	---	---	---	---	---
AIROADV	---	---	GSFC	88	88	87.50	ORAY	24	24
AIROADV400	---	---	GUAPETRO	22	22.50	PRENATO	25	24.50	25
AIROADV 11.50	11	11.50	GALILORON	96	96	97.50	RAYMOND	---	---
AIROADV VLY	---	---	HINDALCO	115	116	118	RAYMOND	88.50	88
BAJAJ AUTO	4475	4600	HYD LAMPS	---	---	---	RELANCE	113	114
BAR RAYON	150	145	IND ORG	25	22	23	SPIC	29.50	29
BOY OTING	98.50	97	INDORON	52	52	53	ST HILLS	205	195
BOMBAY STOCK PRICES	---	---	INDOROL	190	185	190	STHEDICAL	---	---
BSE INDEX	435.70	435.70	ITC	39	38	39	STEELTUBE	---	---
CENTURYSPG	662.50	655	ITC	---	---	---	TATA PWR	187.50	182.50
COLGATE	195	194.50	JK 120	---	---	---	TATACHIN	67	66
DEPAKERT	33	31.50	JKSYNTH	60.50	62	63.50	TATADIL	82	82
DIWACMENT	---	---	L AND T	79	77	79	TELCO	365	365
FIDON ORG	---	---	NAGHARAD	---	---	---	UDAPHOSPH	---	---
GARUPOLT	79	78.50	RAHINDRA	53	52.50	50.50	VOLTAS	---	285

FRANKFURT

STOCK	LAST PR-CLSE
AEQ	176.0
ALLIANZ VR	1055.0
BADENWERK	179.5
BASF	250.0
BAYER	322.0
BAYER HYP	302.0
BAYER VER	302.0
BBC	279.0
BHF	305.0
BHW	429.0
CHEMIE-VER	204.5
COMMERZBK	186.0
CONTI GUMH	532.0
DATMER BEN	373.5
DEUTSC BK	290.0
DLV	222.0
DRESDNER B	142.0
EAZ INDEX	225.0
GOLOSCHWITZ	369.0
GUTHOFF	240.5
HAERPER	80.5
HOECHST AG	144.0
ROESCH	404.0
RUSSEL HLD	117.0
KALI SALZ	405.0
KARSTADT	390.0
KAUFHOF	81.5
KLOCK H	0.0
KLOCK W	0.0
LINDE	498.0
LUFTHANSA	131.5
MAN	126.0
MANNESSMAN	96.2
MERCEDES	404.0
METALLGES	204.0
NIXDORF	535.0
NORSK HYD	36.20
PHILIP KON	609.5
PORSCHE	390.0
PREUSSAG	99.0
PIA	155.0
RHEIN P	210.2
RHEIN P	196.0
RHEINMETAL	215.0
SALAMANDER	269.0
SCHERING	332.0
SEL	270.0
SIEMENS	340.0
THYSEN	98.3
VARTA	218.0
VEB	251.2
VEW	163.5
VOLKSWAGEN	208.2

HONG KONG

STOCK	LAST PR-CLSE
C H TUNNEL	14.00
CHEUNG K	6.65
CHINA GAS	14.90
CHINA L-P	17.10
CHINA MOTR	16.50
COSMO PROP	0.55
EVERGO IND	.31
FEAR EAST C	.68
GEN ORIENT	0.44
H C DEVELOP	8.50
H S INDEX	286.29
HANG LUNG	4.37
HANG SENG	27.40
HAM PAR BR	0.21
HK ELEC CO	7.50
HK KOMCON	6.05
HK LAND CO	7.35
HK SHAN BK	7.25
HK SHAN HT	4.12
HK TELE CO	12.70
HUTCH UNAM	6.90
IND EO PAC	7.50
JARDINE H	10.20
KOMLOON H	10.10
NEW WORLD	7.15
PAUL T CON	1.60
REALTY DEV	5.10
S H K CO	1.69
S H K PROP	8.50
SINE OARY	1.33
STELUX MFG	6.10
SUTRE PAC	15.30
T V B CO	11.40
TAI CHEUNG	3.07
UNION BANK	1.62
WOCK HAD	0.75
WOCK HAT	0.15
WORLD INTL	2.05

TOKYO

STOCK	LAST PR-CLSE
AJINOMOTO	3030
AKAI ELEC	400
AKAI	921
ASAHI GAS	1660
ASAHI OPT	516
BANK TOKYO	1200
BRIDGESTON	1140
CANON	905
CASIO COMP	1100
CHUGAI MNG	1450
CITIZEN W	500
O-ICHI KAN	2710
DAI NIP KAN	695
DAI NIP PT	2240
DAI NIP SC	0.800
DAI NIP TO	411
DAI NIP TO	700
DAI NIP TO	1440
DAI NIP TO	1530
DAI NIP TO	741
DAI NIP TO	1960
DAI NIP TO	1310
DAI NIP TO	2960
DAI NIP TO	3900
DAI NIP TO	1750
DAI NIP TO	640
DAI NIP TO	1150
DAI NIP TO	1230
DAI NIP TO	1260
DAI NIP TO	3650
DAI NIP TO	1070
DAI NIP TO	12400
DAI NIP TO	400
DAI NIP TO	1270
DAI NIP TO	2500
DAI NIP TO	1700
DAI NIP TO	235
DAI NIP TO	300
DAI NIP TO	1880
DAI NIP TO	580
DAI NIP TO	520
DAI NIP TO	5220
DAI NIP TO	1550
DAI NIP TO	2790
DAI NIP TO	2030
DAI NIP TO	1950
DAI NIP TO	910
DAI NIP TO	920
DAI NIP TO	960
DAI NIP TO	500
DAI NIP TO	1520
DAI NIP TO	495
DAI NIP TO	617
DAI NIP TO	1420
DAI NIP TO	989
DAI NIP TO	0
DAI NIP TO	1190
DAI NIP TO	675
DAI NIP TO	1230
DAI NIP TO	1870
DAI NIP TO	267
DAI NIP TO	1040
DAI NIP TO	359
DAI NIP TO	470
DAI NIP TO	705
DAI NIP TO	2550
DAI NIP TO	890
DAI NIP TO	924
DAI NIP TO	751
DAI NIP TO	2640
DAI NIP TO	755
DAI NIP TO	1110
DAI NIP TO	1610
DAI NIP TO	404
DAI NIP TO	1550
DAI NIP TO	1520
DAI NIP TO	921
DAI NIP TO	1420
DAI NIP TO	4650
DAI NIP TO	870
DAI NIP TO	791
DAI NIP TO	895
DAI NIP TO	2850
DAI NIP TO	682
DAI NIP TO	690.44
DAI NIP TO	1560
DAI NIP TO	1060
DAI NIP TO	820
DAI NIP TO	4900
DAI NIP TO	680
DAI NIP TO	560
DAI NIP TO	1980
DAI NIP TO	385
DAI NIP TO	1790
DAI NIP TO	840
DAI NIP TO	1200
DAI NIP TO	3800
DAI NIP TO	1340

Tokyo Stock Market Report

TOKYO STOCKS CLOSE DOWN BUT OFF LOWS IN THIN TRADE

TOKYO, JAN 4 - SHARE PRICES CLOSED THE MORNING-ONLY SESSION DOWN DUE TO BEARISH SENTIMENT STEMMING FROM THE WEAK DOLLAR, BUT WERE PULLED UP BY BARGAIN-HUNTING AND BUYING OF INCENTIVE-BACKED ISSUES, BROKERS SAID.

THE NIKKEI AVERAGE FELL 34.96 POINTS, OR 1.61 PCT, TO 21,217.04 AFTER HITTING A MORNING LOW OF 21,148.26. THE INDEX ROSE 30.56 POINTS ON DECEMBER 28 AT THE LAST SESSION OF 1987.

DECLINES LED ADVANCES ALMOST TWO TO ONE IN TURNOVER OF 170 MLN SHARES AGAINST 260 MLN ON DECEMBER 28.

BROKERAGE, COMMUNICATION, BANK, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE, RAILWAY/BUSSE, AIRLINE AND DRUG SHARES DECLINED.

ONLY MINING AND TRUCKING ISSUES ADVANCED.

SPECULATION THAT THE U.S. WILL PROBABLY NOT RAISE INTEREST RATES FOR FEAR OF AN ELECTION YEAR RECESSION ALSO HELPED TO PROVOKE SELLING BY PRIMARILY INDIVIDUAL INVESTORS, BROKERS SAID.

THE INVESTORS FELT THE DOLLAR WAS LIKELY TO REMAIN WEAK IF U.S. INTEREST RATES WERE NOT INCREASED. THE DOLLAR WEAKNESS AFFECTS NOT ONLY EXPORT-RELATED SHARES, BUT BRINGS NEGATIVE SENTIMENT TOWARD THE ENTIRE MARKET, THEY ADDED.

THE MARKET IS WAITING FOR THE U.S. TO TAKE A FIRM STANCE THAT THE DOLLAR WILL NOT FALL ANY FURTHER, SAID HIROYUKI WADA, GENERAL MANAGER AT OKASAN SECURITIES.

"THE PATTERN SEEMS TO BE CONTINUING FROM LAST YEAR," SAID NORIO ONACHI, A BROKER AT SANTO SECURITIES. "IF THE DOLLAR IS DOWN, THE MARKET IS DOWN."

THE JAPAN AIR LINES (JAL) SHARE PRICE SHED 400 TEN TO 12,400, AND NIPPON TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE (NTT) FELL 80,000 YEN TO 2.08 MLN.

REPORTS THAT FUJITSU HAD SUCCEEDED IN SIMULATING THE WORKINGS OF A NEURAL COMPUTER AND HOPED TO DEVELOP A PROTOTYPE IN SEVERAL YEARS BOOSTED BUYING OF ITS SHARES, BROKERS SAID.

THE SHARES ROSE 200 YEN TO 1,310, AFTER TRADING WAS HALTED NEAR THE MARKET CLOSE DUE TO A FLOOD OF BUY ORDERS.

Nomura Securities

WEEKLY FORECAST WEEK OF DEC. 21 - 26

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK CONTINUES TO IMPROVE WITH OPEC OVERPRODUCTION ETC. CONTRIBUTING TO FALL IN OIL PRICES AND RELIEF OF INFLATIONARY FEARS. COUPLED WITH INTEREST RATE STABILIZATION, THIS HAS LEAD TO A STRONG NT MARKET, TECHNICALLY CONFIRMED TO BE HEADED NORTHEAST BUT UP. THE HIGH YEN, WHICH SENT THE TOKYO MARKET DOWN EVEN AS NY WAS GAINING OVER 12PCT, HAS TECHNICALLY PEAKED SO EXPECT A RETURN OF ENERGY IN THE TOKYO MKT. DETENTE AND U.S. MILITARY CUTBACKS ALSO ENCOURAGE. THE NIKKEI SHOULD CHALLENGE AND SURPASS THE 24000 TEN LEVEL OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

AMMAN

AL HIMME MINERALS	OPNG	CLSG
AL-HISER EXCHANGE	0.79	0.79
ALA-ADDIN COMPANY	0.89	0.90
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.	1.21	1.22
ARAB BANK	1.77	1.82
ARAB CHEMICAL DTR	119.0	118.5
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	5.10	5.19
ARAB INSURANCE	1.47	1.48
ARAB INT. INV/TRADE	0.96	1.02
ARAB INT. UNION INS	0.92	0.92
ARAB INTER. HOTELS	0.53	0.58
ARAB JMW/INTV/BK	2.21	2.20
ARAB PAPER CO/INTD	0.27	0.25
ARAB PHARMA. MANF.	2.15	2.14
ARAB PHARMA/CHEN	0.76	0.75
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.65	1.65
BANK OF JORDAN	16.60	16.50
BEELUNG INSURANCE	1.00	0.95
CATRO AMMAN BANK	25.25	25.50
DAR AL SHAAB PRESS	0.30	0.31
DAR ALDAHA DV/INV.	1.68	1.48
DEVELOP/INVEST/HOUS.	0.44	0.43
ORICO/INVEST/FAS.	0.77	0.79
FINANCE/CREDIT/COR	0.62	0.63
GENERAL INSURANCE	2.39	2.83
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.47	1.60
GENERAL MINING.	1.55	1.50
HOLY LAND INS.	1.23	1.25
IND. WATCH JEMCO	0.76	0.78
INDSTR. DEVLPT BANK	1.36	1.40
INDSTR. COMM/AGR.	1.50	1.40
INDUSTRIAL INVEST	---	---
INTERMED/PETRO/CH	1.22	1.28
INTERCOM/INV	0.64	0.64
IRBID ELECTRICITY	1.01	1.01
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	0.64	0.64
J.PRESS FOUNDATION	3.50	3.85
JERUSALEM INS.	1.41	1.43
JO TOBACCO/CIGARET	14.85	14.70
JOR CEMENT FACT.	0.98	0.98
JOR CERAMIC FACTOR	1.08	1.09
JOR EAGLE INS.	25.01	25.05
JOR ELECTRIC POWER	1.57	1.56
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.10	1.06
JOR GLASS INDUSTRY	0.91	0.92
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	2.50	2.50
JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.	1.20	1.22
JOR INS AND FIN.	1.07	1.08
JOR LINE AND BRICK	0.14	0.14
JOR MAHAG/CONSULT	---	---
JOR NATIONAL BANK	2.70	2.45
JOR PAPER CARDBRDG	2.75	2.85
JOR PHOSPHATE MINS	2.50	2.50
JOR PIPES MANUFACT	1.22	1.20
JOR PRESS/PUBLIS.	2.11	2.11
JOR PRINTING/PACK.	5.00	5.00
JOR ROCK WOOL IND.	0.67	0.67
JOR SECURIT. CORP	0.91	0.91
JOR TIMBER PROCES.	0.17	0.17
JOR WOOD INDUSTRT	0.97	0.97
JOR WORSTED MILL	4.90	4.50
JOR PETROLIUM REF	7.00	7.20
JOR-FRENCH INS.	7.00	7.00
JOR-INV. FIN. CORP.	1.80	1.76
JORDAN BREWERY	3.65	3.65
JORDAN DAIRY	1.00	1.00
JORDAN GULF BANK	1.26	1.30
JORDAN GULF INS.	1.10	1.01
JORDAN INSURANCE	14.50	13.50
JORDAN ISLAMIC BAK	1.90	1.85
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	1.69	1.65
JORDAN TANNING	2.00	2.00
LIVESTOCK/POULTRY	0.79	0.72
MAS INDUSTRIES	0.69	0.73
MIDDLE EAST HOTEL	0.60	0.40
MIDDLE EAST INS.	60.00	60.00
MINERALS RESEARCH	0.60	0.60
NAT. FIN. INVEST CO	1.64	1.53
NAT/CABLE/WIRE/MF	0.93	0.97
NATIONAL AHLIA INS	1.35	1.35
NATIONAL INDUSTRY	0.49	0.52
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO	0.71	0.72
NATIONAL STEEL	2.78	2.66
NTM SHIPMENT LINE	0.85	0.83
ORIENT DRY BATTERY	0.25	0.28
PETRA BANK	2.21	2.40
PETRA ENTERPRISES	0.60	0.60
PETRA JOR. INS.	0.50	0.50
PHILADELPHIA INS.	0.69	0.72
RAFFIA INDUSTRIAL	0.80	0.88
REAL ESTATE INV.	0.44	0.45
SPINNING WEAVING	0.96	0.96
THE MOVING BANK	1.70	1.69
UNITED INSURANCE	2.50	2.50
UNIVERSAL CHEM. IND	1.60	1.62
UNIVERSAL INS.	0.84	0.84
WOOLEN INDUSTRIES	0.74	0.74
YARMOUK INSURANCE	1.10	1.10

PHILIPPINES MAKATI

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SECTOR			BC-A	73.50	74.00	75.00	
STOCK	LT	BUY	SELL	LC-A	.59	.58	.59
AC-A	8.20	8.20	8.30	LC-B	.64	.64	.65
ANSCOR	4.60	4.55	4.60	PX-A	.57	.56	.57
PER	2.34	2.34		PX-B	.59	.59	.60
GLD	33.00	32.50	33.00	OIL SECTOR			
PLDT	151.00	150.00	151.00	BP-A	.016	.016	.017
PCSB		31.00	36.00	BP-B			.017
ESHC-A	111.00	111.00	112.00	LRC-A		.0026	
ESHC-B		123.00	125.00	LRC-B		.0018	.0032
MINING SECTOR			QW-A	.0875	.0850	.0875	
APX-A	.0575	.0550	.0575	QW-B	.089	.09	.0925
APX-B	.06	.06	.0625	QV-A	.05	.049	.05
AT-A	26.00	26.50	27.00	QV-B	.05	.05	.0525

Central banks rescue dollar from record lows

LONDON, Jan 4. (Reuters): Central bankers around the world scrambled to rescue the dollar today after it began 1988 by hitting record lows. Gold prices declined.

It nosedived to touch 120.20 Japanese yen and 1.5615 West German marks in early Tokyo trading. But steady dollar buying by the Bank of Japan — dealers estimated it bought \$1 billion — plus three interventions by West Germany's Bundesbank and buying by the Swiss National Bank later pulled it higher.

French government officials confirmed the existence of secret clauses in an agreement last month by the Group of Seven leading industrial nations.

Pledged
The accord publicly said they did not want the dollar, down almost 25 per cent in 1987, to keep sliding. News reports said the secret clauses pledged central banks to prop it up.

"The central banks have made a fairly forceful display," a New York dealer said, as the dollar held steady just above 1.58 marks and 122.5 yen. The dollar traded at nearly \$1.88 to the pound sterling and at just above 1.28 Swiss francs, up from an earlier record

low of 1.2620 francs.

Shares prices on the first day of 1988 trading generally eased, although trading volume in most centres was light because people wanted to see where the dollar would settle.

Frankfurt stocks fell 5.5 per cent. Paris dropped 2.5 per cent and Zurich two per cent. In Tokyo, the world's biggest market, shares slipped 1.6 per cent.

But Wall Street and London bucked the trend. The Dow Jones industrial average rose more than 25 points in early New York trading to a high of 1,968. British shares were up 1.6 per cent in London's mid-afternoon, helped by the dollar's rebound.

But many currency dealers were unconvinced that the display of central bank muscle today would be enough to lift the dollar, which has been hit by anxiety about the US economy.

Perception
"Intervention just gives you a get-out," said a London dealer. "It will take either a change in US policy or in Europe's perception of the US economic situation to shift sentiment."

Most dealers said they wanted to see more intervention by the

US central bank, the Federal Reserve.

That, they said, would give them some assurance the United States was ready to support the dollar wholeheartedly.

But, even so, many said the dollar would not stop sliding until the US trade and budget deficits started coming down.

The Central Bank buying came as dealers weighed a report by the Paris daily, La Tribune De L'Expansion, saying the Group of Seven industrial nations — the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Italy, Britain and Canada — secretly agreed last month that their central banks would buy dollars when dealers started selling enough to push its value down too far.

Clauses
It quoted French Finance Minister Edouard Balladur for the information. The ministry later said there were secret clauses in the G-7 statement, but declined to discuss their content.

"The market is waiting for the United States to take a firm stance that the dollar will not fall any further," said Hiroyuki Wada, general manager at Okasan Securities, in Tokyo.

Dealers say the United States

needs a cheap dollar so that its government IOUs — Treasury bonds — are attractively priced overseas and so that US companies gain a price advantage over foreign competitors, both in the US and in world markets.

Critical

And so, since the dollar's value is key to the profits of European and Asian companies, stockbrokers say it will be a critical factor in whether share prices rise or fall.

"It's the dollar again," a Frankfurt dealer said. "People see it falling even lower. 1988 looks like being another hard year for the stock market."

Frankfurt's 30-share Boersen-Zeitung index fell 14.77 point, or 5.5 per cent, to close at 254.10. The Paris Bourse indicator slipped 2.47 per cent and the All-Share Swiss index dropped two per cent, or 15.2 points, to 754.2.

Tokyo's 225-share Nikkei index fell 346.96 points, or 1.61 per cent, to 21,217.04 — "the pattern seems to be continuing from last year," said Norio Omachi, a broker at Sanyo Securities in Tokyo. "If the dollar is down, the market is down."

In London, shares firmed after

the central banks intervened to support the dollar. The FTSE 100-share index rose about 1.6 per cent, or nearly 27 points, to approach 1,740, led by gains in share prices of big dollar earning companies.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index slipped 16.46 points in close at 2,286.29, but had plunged nearly 100 points as trading opened today following the weekend arrests of the former stock exchange chairman and two top aides.

Singapore's Strait Times industrial index rose 10.03 points to 833.61 but the Australian All-Ordinaries index fell 21.5 points to 1,297.4.

Gold

In London, the price of gold was fixed at \$480.50 an ounce this afternoon, down six dollars from its close on New Year's eve.

Trading was thin, and dealers said bullion was marked down mostly in reaction to the dollar's bounce. Gold is traditionally a haven for investors when the dollar is weak.

Elsewhere, Swedish, Belgian and Italian shares eased, but a rise in the price of North Sea oil boosted Norwegian shares.



Tokyo's money brokers hustle on the first day of trading for the New Year yesterday as the dollar fell to post-war lows against the yen and mark. (Reuters wirephoto)

European industry braced for dollar squeeze in 1988

Slower growth predicted for West

LONDON, Jan 4. (Reuters): European industry is bracing for a big squeeze in 1988 as each new fall in the dollar makes US imports cheaper and Europe's export markets tougher.

Unemployment in Europe is already close to 20 millions, and no one knows how much or how soon this new 'bear hug' will hurt, although economists polled by Reuters at the start of 1988 generally talked of a slower expansion and not a recession.

But with Far Eastern competitors very active and a sluggish West German economy holding down demand for goods in continental Europe, some people in financial markets fear they may not have discounted bad news far enough.

Tough

"It's going to be a very, very tough year for Europe with very slow growth," said David Lomax, chief international economist at Britain's National Westminster Bank. "Growth of between one and one and a half per cent is pretty bad, but it won't be recession."

Economist Christopher Potts at France's Banque Indosuez said: "For Europe as a whole the international environment is going to be very uncomfortable, if only because of the need of US industry to win back market share at the same time as South-East Asian competition is going

to be very fierce."

Airbus Industrie is the European consortium which builds airliners, competing with US giants Boeing and Douglas.

French Trade Minister Michel Noir caused a stir last month when he told the daily France Soir that the dollar's 25 per cent fall in 1987 was "a catastrophe for Airbus."

West German carmaker Daimler-Benz AG cancelled four additional Saturday work shifts before Christmas because of the weakening dollar, which cuts its US sales.

But some analysts say Europe's near-term fears are overdone.

Optimistic

"The optimistic way to look at it is that it doesn't look as though there's going to be a recession in Europe in 1988," said George Magnus at London brokerage Warburg Securities.

Europe's central banks acted swiftly and together to cut interest rates after the Black Monday October 19 stock market crash and could do so again if inflation stays under control.

Lower interest rates mean cheaper borrowing for consumers and industry, and are held to stimulate economic activity.

But hopes for further decisive European government coopera-

tion to fuel growth look forlorn — "the European Economic Community has no fully effective means of coordinating macroeconomic policy," said National Westminster Bank's Lomax.

West Germany, at the core of European business, stressed in December its reluctance to be pushed into being an economic engine for its neighbours.

"From the German point of view, the present economic situation does not require further measures," it told the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development after the OECD had called on it to expand faster.

Central role

"Very little is possible in Europe without Germany playing a central role," OECD director Kjell Anderson commented. Bonn seems more worried about inflation and its spending deficit than growth, but some economists say it will change.

"Since the crash some of the regional politicians, big businesses and banks have increasingly started to challenge the conventional view that fighting the budget deficit is the first priority," said Richard Ried, chief European economist at brokers Phillips and Drew.

The industry-backed Institute for the West German Economy (IWE) sees real 1988 German

growth of less than one per cent and major employers are said to be very worried.

Economists think Bonn may step up privatisations and liberalise strict stock trading hours to encourage spending.

But analysts note Germany's falling birthrate means whatever growth is around goes further per capita. They say the German electorate won't feel a slowdown as sharply as others and may vote out the politician who risks inflation for extra growth.

French politicians will be hamstrung until after presidential elections in the spring. Meanwhile, a big debate is brewing on the cost of a social security system forecast to run up a 19 billion franc (\$3.5 billion) deficit this year.

"One very big question coming up is the future and the cost of the welfare state," Bank Indonesia's Potts said.

Unrepeatable

New British tax cuts are on the agenda as Britain enters 1988 with strong growth. But the price of above-average expansion is a widening trade deficit and perhaps inflation. If they sap confidence in sterling, interest rates may have to stay high.

Italian Prime Minister Giovanni Goria has said: "A period of virtually unrepeatable economic progress has finished."

Indonesia seeks new markets to boost trade

JAKARTA, Jan 4. (Reuters): Indonesia, seeking new markets for its rubber, coffee and other primary commodities, has identified China and Eastern Europe as key areas for expanding exports in 1988.

President Suharto singled out China and Eastern Europe as targets for expansion during an end-of-the-year cabinet session to review the budget he will announce on Thursday, government officials said today.

Suharto has followed a staunchly anti-communist line since rising to power after a failed coup in 1965, which he blamed on Beijing-backed communists, but in the last four years has approved increased trade with communist states.

Indonesia, the largest country in South-East Asia, only reopened direct trade with Beijing in 1985 and still has no formal diplomatic ties.

Although there are no detailed figures, businessmen say trade with China has started to boom. In November, Indonesia signed a \$1.5 billion contract to supply 4.5 million cubic metres of plywood to China over three years.

GIB opens office in Frankfurt

GULF International Bank BSC (GIB) has announced the opening of a representative office in Frankfurt.

Established in 1975, GIB is an international merchant and wholesale commercial bank wholly and equally owned by the governments of Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

With the establishment of a permanent presence in the Federal Republic of Germany, GIB will be able to meet the requirements of German financial institutions and companies with interests in the Middle East.

In addition to its head office located in Bahrain, GIB has branches in London, New York, Singapore, and Grand Cayman, and a representative office in Tokyo.

Fed will try to avoid higher interest rates: economists

WASHINGTON, Jan 4. (Reuters): Fear of an election year recession will probably deter the United States from raising interest rates to defend the dollar, economists said.

The dollar's fall, as 1987 ended, to its lowest against other key currencies since World War II threatened problems in export-led economies in Asia and Europe and depressed stock prices around the globe.

Higher US interest rates would prop it by improving the return on dollar assets and thereby attracting more foreign investors to buy them. But, by making borrowing more expensive, they would also risk slowing a US economy already hit by the Black Monday October 19 stock market crash.

Guess

"My guess is they are not going to be eager to raise interest rates," said Kathryn Kote, vice president of Joel Popkin and Co., a Washington-based economic consulting firm. "Their primary goal is to keep the economy out of recession, especially in an election year."

Presidential elections are due in November. Kote said she thought the central bank, the Federal Reserve Board, had decided "that if any-

thing is going to have to give it is going to be the dollar."

The Reagan administration and many independent economists have lowered expectations for growth following the October 19 market crash, and government data suggests they are right.

Economists said the Fed would try to avoid higher interest rates at least until the full impact of the stock market collapse on the economy became clear.

Inclined

It might be more inclined to raise them to brake consumer spending, if it looked as if high spending, plus higher import costs as a result of the weak dollar, were giving a twist to inflation. But lower oil prices promise to check inflation.

The dollar's continuing weakness will probably intensify pressure on the United States from its trading partners to raise interest rates to support the dollar.

The huge US budget deficit also encourages higher interest rates. "The United States must attract foreign money to help finance it," Kote said.

But policymakers appear reluctant to raise rates even at the risk of a further dollar decline. "They are very reluctant to do

that in light of the potential weakness of the economy in the first half of 1988," said Lyle Gramley, Mortgage Bankers Association economist and a former Federal Reserve governor. "They would not want to set the economy go downhill to rescue the dollar."

New data suggests the economy is slowing. The government said on Wednesday that the index of leading indicators, a key gauge of future activity, fell a sharp 1.7 per cent in November, a drop not exceeded since a 2.2 per cent fall in September 1981.

Donald Ratajczak, director of economic forecasting at Georgia State University, said leaving the dollar under pressure was the only option open to the government.

"The administration basically is in a box," Ratajczak said. "It has very few arrows to shoot. It could raise interest rates, but very few economists would recommend that."

Sharply
But the dollar has risen sharply, it could damage both the world and US economies."

The Group of Seven leading industrial democracies two weeks ago issued a statement saying any further dollar decline or fluctuations in exchange rates could be counterproductive.

The key word is change

Gulf is geared for economic upturn

DESPITE the downturn in the economies of the Gulf over the past three to four years, the region still comprises one of the most important markets of the world, fostered by a strong commitment to the principles of free trade.

The six Gulf countries constitute the world's 8th largest import market and enjoy high standards of living with levels of per capita income and consumption matching those of the most developed countries, according to Gulf Economic & Financial Report.

With or without the fall in oil prices, the level of expenditure of the 70s and early 80s were bound to decrease once major infrastructural projects were completed.

Nevertheless, the region remains a sizeable market for a wide range of goods and services, and with the projected upturn in economic conditions and the far more favourable growth prospects expected for the 90s, the Gulf countries promise to be as well the markets of the future.

Slowdown

The economic slowdown that started in 1983 represents the end of the sales and trading era. Marketing is taking over and is becoming more visible in all sectors.

Successful marketing is based on the ability to recognise new trends in consumer demand and to take advantage of evolving market conditions by developing the right product and marketing it at the right time.

In the Gulf countries where the key word is change, the importance of marketing is even greater than elsewhere. Unfortunately, the role of marketing continues to be undefined and under-utilised, as participants remain unclear of what it entails and unconvinced of its benefits relative to its costs.

Expansion

The factors that have affected Gulf markets include growing national populations, changing structure of expatriate labour force, expansion of education, shifting of tastes and preferences, the proliferation and specialisation of retail outlets, improved distribution systems, better government regulations, growth of local companies and more and better advertising.

The various aspects of Gulf markets, their structure, changing character and the marketing process in general will be considered in this issue.

Gulf markets in the 1990s will undoubtedly be dominated by those companies who have spent time and effort to understand and adapt to the changing condi-

tions of these markets.

The marketing process includes product and market research, risk analysis, planning, testing and promotion. In other words moving beyond the realm of simply selling towards creating markets for products and services that are commercially viable and able to survive and flourish.

Since 1983, an era of intense competition has been unfolding in the Gulf region brought forth by declining oil revenues, changing life styles and consumption habits.

Domestic markets which used to be very profitable and fast growing have shrunk lately and become highly competitive.

The new market conditions dictate new ways in which business is to be carried out. Sales forecasts based on projections from previous years can be rather deceiving in the light of overall declining market size.

Crucial

International suppliers are relying more than ever before on the marketing process to preserve their market shares.

They are competing as well with local manufacturers trying to introduce their products and capture a foothold in an already overcrowded market.

Marketing, not only of goods,

but also of services has been emerging as a crucial tool for survival. Banks which have been gradually introducing fee-generating services and investment banking products now find themselves in same position as merchants and industrialists in need of marketing strategies to sell their services under greatly reduced expectations of the market's size.

Assessment of market risks has become even more important than assessment of credit risk. At the same time, institutions providing other services such as airlines, insurance and shipping companies, hotels, etc have been gradually developing and are able to cater for a considerable proportion of the area's need.

International companies have started to feel the heat of competition and have realised the need for more marketing in order to preserve their market share.

Many companies selling to the Gulf have treated their target customers more or less the same as their Western or Far Eastern customers, or as an untapped cliché of a general Gulf Arab customer.

Many exporters to the region did not go through the necessary steps of product and market research as Gulf societies were perceived to be closed and impenetrable.

World to correct the considerable imbalances which the floating exchange system has allowed to accumulate."

He said that for the past 15 years the international currency exchange market has been stricken with "incertitude and fragility," despite steps such as the creation of the European Monetary System and the G-7 accords.

"Beyond that," Balladur said, "I am convinced that we will have to commit ourselves to the reconstruction of a true international monetary order," which he said should include "automatic controls and sanctions."

G-7 secretly agrees to support dollar

PARIS, Jan 4. (UPI): The Group of Seven industrialised nations secretly agreed to support the dollar when it issued a major currency exchange policy statement in December, a Paris financial daily reported today, quoting French Finance Minister Edouard Balladur.

La Tribune De L'Expansion quoted Balladur as saying the seven major industrialised nations which called on Dec 22 for more stable exchange rates also agreed they should brake the fall of the dollar and drafted an unpublished clause agreeing they would prop up the US currency.

Balladur also told the financial journal he thought it was time to

abandon the current system of floating currency exchange rates and create a new, more highly regulated world monetary system.

The minister of economy, finance and privatisation said the so-called G-7 agreement "confirmed the necessity of a coordination of economic policies to correct the imbalances which affect the world economy."

He called for greater adherence to the Louvre currency stabilisation agreement, the previous G-7 pact drawn up in February which urged, but did not produce, more stable exchange rates.

"In the second place it (was)

agreed that the dollar should fall no further," Balladur said, referring to the recent G-7 meeting. The resulting statement had the undesired effect of triggering another plunge.

"The seven major countries committed themselves to cooperating on exchange markets to this end. Their accord contains unpublished clauses concerning the action of central banks on currency markets," the Tribune De L'Expansion quoted the French finance chief as stating.

Enable
Balladur told the paper that "international cooperation is the only path that will enable the

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT AS ON 4.1.88

B. No	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No
3	Saefer	Algh Barber	4843988
4	Shezan	Algh. Barber	4843988
5	Taluk	KSA	4843150
6	Rashidah	Al Qutub	4747815
9	Tug Abu Samir	Gulf Star	4844501
12	Barge Maryam	"	4844501
13	Norasia Arabia	Imad	4841807
16	Buzet	M. Bahar	2459971
14	Dresden	Steeemo	2459973
PH3	Zhang Yang	M. Bahar	2459891
16	Marianne	Al Bader	2433537

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT

ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No
4/1	Trans Gulf	Algh Barber	4843988
4/1	Adriatic Universal	United	2457958
4/1	Kara Koram	Trans. Conti.	2436920

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBA PORT

B. No	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No
3	Tug Delmar-5	Sager Shaheen	4745471
6	Barge Delmar-2	Sager Shaheen	4745471
12	Thonik	Algh Barber	4843988

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBA PORT

ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No
3/1	Staceman Service	Al Rashid	2422026
5/1	Grace Liberty	Al Kamal Shpg.	2425437
5/1	Barzan	UASC	4843150
5/1	Apollonia	Roger	2423642
6/1	Tor Bay	KMMC	2419814
7/1	Abu Busma	Roper	2423642

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Sterling eases

THE US dollar started 1988 at the new post-war lows on speculative selling amid extremely bearish sentiment. The early trading in Asian centres were reported nervous as short-covering emerged on persistent intervention by Bank of Japan.

However, dealers noted, the upside of the dollar should be limited and any recovery is likely to be short-lived and the 120 yen and 1.56 marks levels are within reach, as there is still no fundamental reason to buy dollars.

The dollar began at 120.55/65 yen in Hong Kong and slid marginally before Bank of Japan buying support pushed it near the 121 level. It closed at 121.00/10 yen in New York on Thursday after hitting a low of 120.95 yen there, and was last quoted at 120.70/121.00 in Bahrain on Sunday.

Intervention by Bundesbank and Swiss National Bank followed by the Bank of Japan, helped the dollar for a firmer start in Europe. After fluctuating widely in a two pence range in Tokyo, the dollar began at 157.95/05 marks in Frankfurt and further firmed to start at 158.03/10 in London. Tokyo dealers estimated the Bank of Japan's intervention at about \$500 million to one billion, but German dealers could not put a figure on Bundesbank's action but reported to be heavy.

Dealers in Europe expected the trading to remain volatile, with a negative bias, at least until the January 15 release of November US trade data, which should show a sharp drop from October's record \$17.63 billion deficit.

The British pound opened little weaker on its trade-weighted index, reflecting the dollar's firmness. It started at 75.7 per cent of its 1975 value, after a year-end close of 75.8 and dipped to 75.6 during early hours of London business. Against the dollar, it began at 1.8730/40 compared with a closing 1.8860/last week.

London midday dollar quotes were:
Sfr: 1.8730/40
Dmk: 1.5815/25
Sfr: 1.2820/30
Yen: 122.25/35
Provided by Al Kazemi Int'l Exch Co. Kuwait.

مكتبة الامم

Growing consumer awareness on commercial use of kangaroo skins

Activists battle kangaroo killers

By Timothy Aeppl

WASHINGTON—In Britain, eight running-shoe manufacturers have stopped using kangaroo leather in their products. The European Community Parliament, meanwhile, slapped a partial ban on the import of kangaroo skins in September, and a bill introduced in the United States Congress calls for even more stringent controls.

These efforts reflect the growing push by a fervent coalition of environmentalists and animal-rights advocates against one of the largest commercial wildlife harvests in the world.

Nearly 3 million kangaroos will be killed in Australia this year for commercial use. Others will be bunted illegally or eliminated as agricultural pests.

Australian officials consider "culling" and say it is necessary. They argue that kangaroos over-populate many parts of the country and compete with cattle and sheep for pasture — points both disputed by critics.

The killing of kangaroos has long stirred controversy inside Australia, where the marsupial is a cherished national symbol. Activists now want to make it an international issue as well.

"The mainstay of the export market," says Lorraine Thorne, an organizer with Greenpeace International based in London. "So we believe the most effective approach is to make the international community aware of their involvement in the slaughter."

Greenpeace is orchestrating the international campaign, including last year's drive against running-shoe companies. In that case, the environmental lobbying group wrote to firms in Britain, showing them an advertisement that they planned to produce naming shoe companies that use kangaroo.

"(The firms) had an opportunity to stop their name from being associated with kangaroo skin, and they took it," says Ms Thorne. Indeed, four

of the companies — including Nike and New Balance — have vowed to make their products "kangaroo free" worldwide.

A consumer campaign is also being prepared for the U.S. In January, the International Wildlife Coalition based in Falmouth, Mass., will publish a booklet listing US companies that use kangaroo skin in their products.

"Many products aren't labeled kangaroo skin, so it's taking a lot of investigation on our part to pinpoint the items," says Marian Newman, the coalition's Washington-based programme director.

Australia earns about \$10 million a year from its kangaroo trade, most of it from skins exported to Europe, North America, and parts of Asia. The leather is used in everything from handbags to baseball gloves. A much smaller market has developed for kangaroo meat, which is sold as a delicacy in some parts of the world.



Kangaroo leather is used in everything from handbags to baseball gloves. Australia earns about \$10 million a year from the trade.

John Clune, a spokesman for the Australian Embassy in Washington, says, "We just can't accept the argument that the larger species which are hunted commercially are in any way endangered" by the culling programme.

Australian officials estimate that there are at least 19 million of the three largest species of kangaroos. These three — the red, eastern gray, and western gray kangaroos — are the primary targets of hunters.

The group of animals typically referred to as "kangaroos" includes 48 different species, ranging from human-sized red kangaroos to tiny rat kangaroos.

It's the methods of the killing, as much as the hunt itself, that has stirred controversy. Films produced for European, US, and Japanese television use graphic footage to show how the animals are spotlighted at night, then killed with a shot to the head. Australian officials contend that

much of the information distributed abroad plays on emotions.

"I don't know if there's any nice way to kill an animal," Mr Clune says, "but we say it must be done — so we should do it as humanely as possible." Without the commercial harvest, he says, farmers and ranchers would be forced to use cheaper, less humane methods, such as poisoning water holes.

The international campaign against kangaroo killing is being tailored to suit different countries. In Britain, a nation with historic ties to Australia, there's heavy emphasis on the coming Australian bicentennial. The slogan: "200 years of slaughter isn't something to celebrate."

Meanwhile, the European Parliament earlier this fall approved a measure that would ban the import of 45 species of kangaroo and put the three largest species on a special list. The large animals could still be imported, but extensive monitoring of the trade would be required.

In the US, the focus is on a bill in Congress that would ban the import of all kangaroo products. In 1974, the US Fish and Wildlife Service put the three largest species on the Threatened Species List and banned all imports. The "threatened" list is one step down from the "endangered" list.

Under heavy pressure from the Australian government, the US lifted the ban in 1981. At the time, the Reagan administration said that the Australians had implemented an effective kangaroo management plan.

Under the plan, each Australian state develops its own programme which must then be approved by federal officials. Last year, activists against the kangaroo killing challenged Queensland's management plan before an administrative appeals tribunal and succeeded in getting it proclaimed invalid. Activists are challenging Queensland's programme again this year.

The Christian Science Monitor.

By Wes Henry

NAIROBI, Kenya: Ever since the movie "Out of Africa" romanticized the glorious vistas and wildlife of East Africa, people have been pouring into Kenya. But the influx of so many tourists deepens the threat to animals already put at risk by rapidly disappearing habitat, poaching, and mediocre management.

"The wildlife and scenic resources that attract visitors to Africa, now a tiny fragment of what once existed, are seriously threatened," says Paul Schindler, president of the United States-based African Wildlife Foundation. "It is remarkably fragile compared to much of the United States or Europe."

The international conservation community was heartened when Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi appointed Perez Olindo director of Kenya's national parks and game reserves.

"The happy circumstance is the remarkable difference one person can make," says Dr Schindler. "His wisdom, experience, and plain common sense may make a critical difference to the future of these remarkable areas."

Mr Olindo is facing complex challenges. Elephant and rhinoceros populations have been devastated by poaching. Wildlife habitat outside national parks and wildlife reserves is vanishing, and commercial tourism grows unconstrained within the preserves.

Park and wildlife management has grown infinitely more difficult in recent decades. Land that once was habitat for myriad wildlife species has been converted to range for agricultural use at a tremendous rate. Wildlife populations are increasingly restricted to the established parks and reserves. But the global demand for wildlife products such as rhino horn, ivory, and fur seems to make poaching irresistible.

The problems of habitat loss and poaching have been compounded by corruption, mismanagement, and neglect. Rangers on foot, armed with World War I-vintage rifles and limited ammunition are a poor match for highly mobile poachers armed with semiautomatic weapons. Olindo notes, "When a rhino horn is worth \$65,000, rangers,



A balloon safari in Kenya. The influx of so many tourists deepens the threat to animals already put at risk by poaching.

Tourism threatens Kenya's wildlife

park wardens, and anyone else trying to conserve them is in a dangerous position." The trade in illicit wildlife products has had a corrosive and corrupting influence on the operation of Kenya's parks and wildlife reserves.

Lax management and neglect are also evident, as when wildlife areas are not adequately patrolled, gas and spare parts for vehicles and planes are in short supply, or supplies and salaries for staff come late. The negative impact on staff morale becomes obvious.

As the parks and reserves evolve into ecological islands, different and more intensive "people" and wildlife management is required. The need for wildlife to migrate onto private lands for part of the year necessitates extensive dealings with local landowners whose livestock may compete

for the same forage. More dealings with local politicians are also required, along with more interaction with tourists and various segments of the tourist industry.

The Kenyan government expects tourist dollars to help pay the bills for wildlife conservation. But conservationists worry that a higher volume of visitors will adversely affect the remaining wild animals in their last natural sanctuaries. Ultimately, they fear the loss of the very values that originally attracted tourists.

Tourism, long a mainstay of the national economy, has increased dramatically — an annual growth rate of nearly 30 per cent over the past several years. More than 350,000 visitors are expected this year. A recent cabinet minister for tourism and wildlife set an ambitious goal of 1 million tourists per year.

Hotels, tour operators, drivers, park rangers, craft

industries, and even local Masai landowners are benefiting from the boom. But tourism is not an entirely benign industry. Too many vehicles, hot-air balloons, hotels, tented camps, and staff and support facilities packed into or near the reserves can have a negative impact.

Olindo has already acted on some of these concerns. A new park warden is to be appointed in Amboseli National Park, one who can be expected to move quickly to enforce rules on "off road driving." This will help to reduce the pressure on lions and cheetahs, which, although few in number, are a primary tourist attraction.

Olindo has negotiated with local officials to place a temporary ban on further development of lodges and tented camps around the Masai Mara Game Reserve. Further expansion of hot-air balloon safaris will be opposed, and stricter rules on their operation sought.

"Parks should be seen as inviolate sanctuaries with windows for us to see into them," says Olindo. "Kenya is the custodian of these great natural resources by accident of geography, but they belong to all humanity and to posterity."

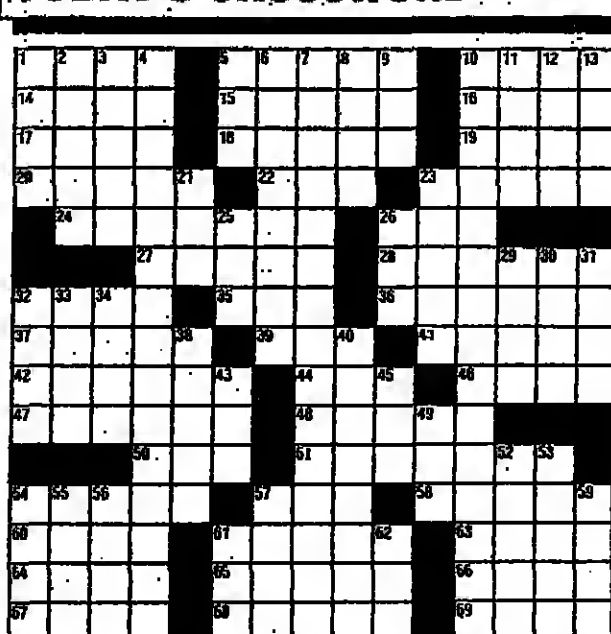
Rescuing Kenya's beleaguered black rhinos is Perez Olindo's most immediate crisis. Their number has dropped from 20,000 in 1970 to barely 500 today, says Kenya's recently appointed director of national parks and game reserves.

The National Rhino Plan envisions establishment of several rhino sanctuaries, better anti-poaching efforts, and relocation of rhinos. More than 100 endangered rhinos will be moved from outlying areas to sanctuaries — Nakuru, Tsavo, Aberdare, Meru, and Nairobi national parks and several private ranches.

Conservation groups helped the government fence Nakuru, a park already famous as home to millions of flamingos. The first 15 rhinos were released there in May.

Conservation education is also a major concern. "We must do more to allow the people of Kenya to see and value their parks and wildlife heritage," Olindo says. He recognizes that without a broad local constituency, conservation will continue to face a precarious future. The Christian Science Monitor.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- 1 Start symbol
 - 5 Neckwear
 - 10 Cleric's closer
 - 14 Tilt in
 - 15 Suit for
 - 16 Heart
 - 17 Dill herb of the Bible
 - 18 Psychologist
 - 19 Give an edge
 - 20 Describing a he-man
 - 22 Choice word
 - 23 Mandate
 - 24 One way to copy a pattern
 - 26 — Lanka
 - 27 Western tournament
 - 28 Flock leader
 - 32 Plaster
 - 35 North Pole resident?
 - 36 Dress
 - 37 Hilo howdy
 - 39 Shave's home
 - 41 Irish nationalist Robert
 - 42 Kind of bond
 - 46 African fox
 - 47 Advance
 - 48 Inventor Howe
 - 50 But, in old Rome
 - 51 Adorns
 - 54 Checks
 - 57 Court unit
 - 58 Took to the station
 - 60 SSAT, a.g.
 - 61 Kate's TV partner
 - 63 Word to the chef
 - 64 "Rio —"
 - 65 Author of "Lady Windemere's Fan"

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

SHAW TOMA SONS
LATH TAIHS QUOI
ASTO ETSED UCLA
BIANDAGES UTAHAN
UXOR PEAS
BENE BRETHREN
SOLILOQUIZE OLE
EXIT FURZE LALO
NEZ STATESWOMAN
ORAMATIS HOSS
AXIL ROKK
EMBLEM PERSONAE
GILA ERRED VITA
OKAY STOVE ENOS
SETA EWER RIAPT

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDE

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ A K Q J 5
♥ 9 3
♦ 6 4
♣ K 8 4 2

WEST
♠ 9
♥ 2
♦ A 8 3
♣ A Q J 10 9 7 5 3

EAST
♠ 8 7 6 3 2
♥ 8 6 4
♦ Q J 10 9 5
♣ Void

SOUTH
♠ 10 4
♥ A K Q J 10 7 5
♦ K 7 2
♣ 6

The bidding:
West North East South
1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass 4 ♥
5 ♣ Dbl Pass 5 ♥
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠
Under most circumstances, the winning defense on this hand would make you a laughing stock. But once in a while even seemingly strange plays are correct.

South's jump to four hearts strikes us as a little conservative. At rubber bridge, his decision to pull the double to five hearts is clear cut; at duplicate, where honors don't count, he would be faced with a considerable problem.

Against five hearts West led the ace of clubs, and East discarded his queen of diamonds to show his interior sequence while denying the king. East ruffed the club continuation, but declarer overruffed, drew trumps and cashed five spade tricks, discarding all of his diamonds. He ended up with an overtrick.

This was a rather ignoble result, and it was caused by East spending his trump one trick too late. True, that would have meant ruffing his partner's ace — an act that is usually greeted with ridicule. But here there is sound logic why that is the correct play.

South surely has solid hearts for his jump to game and rebid at the five-level. If he has the ace of diamonds as well, the contract will be a shoo-in even if declarer has a doubleton club.

Therefore, if the hand is to be defeated, West must have the ace of diamonds. Clearly, therefore, East should ruff the ace of clubs and shift to the queen of diamonds. West knows whether declarer started with two clubs or one, and he will be able to defend in such way that East-West get all their tricks. As the cards lie, two diamonds and a club are their limit, but that is enough for a one-trick set.



"Will you get a move on — I got 200 sheep double-parked!"

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

<p>Aries (March 21 - April 18)</p> <p>You should pay more attention to what is happening around you. Avoid getting seriously into debt. Make sure you do not do anything positively injurious to your health. Be tactful.</p>	<p>Cancer (June 21 - July 21)</p> <p>You will be on better terms with those close to you and should make sure you do nothing to upset the harmony. Avoid asking for more than you know you deserve.</p>	<p>Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)</p> <p>You should avoid being jealous and should try to overcome your resentments. You must keep calm in the face of an exciting situation. Make sure you do not betray a confidence. Be selective.</p>	<p>Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)</p> <p>You should be a little more careful about your expenditure. You will be able to do something to avoid discord and should do so. Keep an eye also on what is behind you. Be tactful.</p>
<p>Taurus (April 19 - May 19)</p> <p>Take extra care when lifting heavy objects. You should not be quite so adverse to change. Nor however should you change just for the sake of change. Be objective.</p>	<p>Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)</p> <p>You should not make too much fuss about a little annoyance. Take a little more notice of what others have to say. Eat no more than you know you should. Be considerate.</p>	<p>Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)</p> <p>You should be more careful about the way you say what has to be said. If you persevere you will be able to make good progress. Do not allow others to persuade you to act against your better judgment. Be resolute.</p>	<p>Aquarius (Jan. 21 - Feb. 18)</p> <p>You will not be able to get your way in all things. Never mind, if you take care you will get a lot of what you want. You should beware of believing all you hear. Be sensible.</p>
<p>Gemini (May 21 - June 20)</p> <p>If you try to do things more quickly than you yet have the skill to do you will not save any time. Do not allow others to pull the wool over your eyes.</p>	<p>Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)</p> <p>You will be rather too given to dreaming. Avoid placing too much trust in luck. Do not spend too much time watching television. Be a little more generous.</p>	<p>Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)</p> <p>You will be able to do something to avoid an error. However you should be careful you have your facts right. Take a little more not too violent exercise. Be frugal.</p>	<p>Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)</p> <p>All kinds of exaggeration should be avoided. Try to remain as objective as is humanly possible. You should show more respect and exercise a little more discretion. Be moderate.</p>

Dear Junior Readers,

Some of you have probably written your New Year's resolutions and after five whole days of the New Year, you have probably even had time to break a few of these resolutions.

I would love to hear from you about your resolutions; the things you want to change in 1988. It would also be interesting to hear about what kind of problems you have in sticking to your resolutions.

Please write or drop by the Arab Times office and share with us your New Year's goals.

Thank you,

Aunt Barbara

Firsts and lasts

An apprentice miniature-painter in the Kanga school in India is only allowed to pick up a brush and paint for the first time after ten years of training. Some of the brushes they use are so fine that they are made of only one hair.

The famous painting the 'Mona Lisa' painted by Leonardo da Vinci, which is the most valuable picture in the world, was first called 'La Gioconda'.

A female vole, a rodent smaller than a mouse, can have her first babies only 25 days after she herself is born.

When statues of famous men on horseback were first put up in Roman times, a tradition was started which is still in practice today. If the horse has all four feet on the ground, it means that the rider died a natural death; if the horse has one or two hooves in the air, it means that the rider died in battle.

More first-born babies are born during a waning moon (when it gets smaller) than a waxing moon (when it gets bigger).

Charles Lindbergh was not the first man to fly the Atlantic though many think he was. In fact he was the sixty-seventh; the others flew across the Atlantic, but not alone, as he did.

The last thing King Frederick the Great of Prussia, who lived in the eighteenth century, used to do before going into battle was to have his veins opened. The letting of blood, he said, calmed his nerves.

For the first six or seven months of our lives, we can do something that we are never able to do again; swallow and breathe at the same time.

Names on the map

1. After whom is the Caribbean Sea named?
2. What prompted the Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci, when sailing along the northern coast of South America in 1499, to give it the name Venezuela?
3. Apart from both being in Africa, what do the Sahara Desert and Lake Nyasa have in common?
4. Can you name Tamerlane's capital?
5. In 1513, Ponce de Leon named a group of islands after the Spanish for 'shallow water'. What do we know them as today?
6. What is the only island state in the Caribbean to be named after a church?
7. The former French territory of the Asfars and the Issas is now which independent state on the Horn of Africa?
8. The Netherlands means literally what?
9. In 982 Eric the Red sailed west from Iceland and reached the shores of an island further north. Why did he name it Greenland when it was far colder and less hospitable than the island he had left?
10. What European city is famous for a cathedral containing the shrine of the Magi and for a scent it produces?

Answers: 1. After the fierce Carib Indians, who inhabited the island of the area. 2. When he encountered native villages built on wooden piles in the shallow water, he was reminded of Venice, and so he named this area 'little Venice', or Venezuela. 3. Since Sahara is from the Arabic word Sahara, meaning 'desert', and since Nyasa is a corruption of the Bantu word nyanza, meaning 'lake', the Sahara Desert and Lake Nyasa are Desert Desert and Lake Lake, respectively. (Lake Nyasa has been known as Lake Malawi since 1965.) 4. Samarkand. 5. The Bahamas, from the Spanish haja mar. 6. Antigua, which Columbus named after Santa Maria Antigua in Seville. 7. Djibouti. 8. Low-lying lands. 9. By giving it a lush-sounding name, he hoped to attract settlers. 10. Cologne, Germany.

THERE was once an old woman who was very poor and had nothing left to eat. She looked in all her boxes and all her drawers, on all her shelves and in all her cupboards until at last she found a little flour. She tipped it into a little round pot and cooked some soup with it. When she had eaten it, she washed the pot and laid it on the window-sill to dry, saying, 'Now I shall certainly starve to death, unless God helps me.' Sadly she sat down in her rocking-chair and fell asleep.

The sun shone on the little round pot and dried it, and the pot said, 'Now I must be on my way.'

'Where are you going to, little round pot?' asked the sun.

'I am going to the market-place, to get some food for the poor old woman.' And the little pot bounced down from the window-sill, and off into the town to the market-place, where it rolled about amongst all the people.

Along came a farmer who was carrying a sackful of beans, and he did not know what to do with them. 'Little round pot,' he said, 'you have come just at the right time.' And he emptied all the beans into its little round body.

As soon as the little round pot noticed that it was full again, it said,

The little round pot

'Now I must be on my way.' So it turned round and rolled back to the old woman. It thumped on the door and cried, 'Open up, open up! It is the little roundpot!'

The old woman awoke, went to the door and opened it. She looked at the pot, and she was overjoyed when she saw the beautiful juicy beans in its little round body. She cooked herself some bean soup with them, washed the pot till it was spotless.

and laid it on the window-sill to dry, thinking, 'God has helped me once — perhaps he will do so again!'

Whereupon she fell asleep. Once again the sun came out and dried the little round pot, and again it said, 'Now I must be on my way to the town, to get some food for the poor old woman.'

It bounced down from the window-sill, and off into the town. It rolled into a butcher's shop, and bounced up on to the counter.

The butcher's wife was standing there with a ladle full of beef broth in her hand, not knowing what to do with it. 'You have come just at the right time!' she cried when she saw the little pot, and she poured the broth into its little round body.

The little pot noticed that it was warm and full. It bounced down from the counter, and rolled back to the old woman. Once again it thumped on the door, and cried, 'Open up, open



up! It is the little round pot!'

The old woman was indeed delighted. She opened the door, lifted up the little pot, and drank all the warm broth. As before, she washed the little round pot till it was spotless, and laid it on the window-sill to dry.

Once again the sun came out and dried the little round pot, and once again it said, 'Now I must be on my way.'

'Pot, little pot, where are you going to now?' asked the sun.

'I am going to a rich man, to get some money for the poor old woman.'

So the little pot rolled along to a rich man's house and right up into his room, where he was busy counting his money at the table. He was just thinking that he had more money than he knew what to do with when he saw the little round pot, and he said, 'You have come just at the right time!' And he shook in as many gold pieces as the little round pot would hold.

As soon as the little round pot noticed that it was full, it bounced down from the table, out of the door and down the stairs, hump, bump, hump.

'Come back! Come back!' shouted the rich man, but the little round pot had already disappeared round the corner of

the street.

The pot thumped at the old woman's door, and called, 'Open up, open up! It is the little round pot!'

The woman hurried to open the door, and her eyes nearly popped out of her head at the sight of so much gold. She hardly gave herself time to shake it out and to wash the pot, and then, rather than waste time laying it out to dry on the window-sill, she pushed it out of the door, crying, 'Hurry, little round pot, hurry back and bring me more!'

The little round pot was very angry, and it grumbled, 'Very well, very well, I'll be on my way.' But instead of going to the rich man, it rolled along into the town until it came to a halt where some workmen were mending the road. There it waited until it was full of pebbles, and then it rolled back to the old woman. It thumped on the door, saying, 'Open up, open up! It is the little round pot!'

The woman had been waiting at the door, but as soon as she saw what was in the little round pot, she grew very angry, and threw it right out of the window.

The little round pot rolled along into the wide world, and it never came back to the old woman. As far as I know it is still going. Perhaps you will meet it some day.

Man's best friend in Lapland is his reindeer



Maybe you thought reindeer were only used to pull Santa's sleigh, but people in the cold desert or tundra of Lapland depend on reindeer for their hides and milk as well as for pulling their sleighs. Peoples of the Laplands and Siberia have semi-domesticated these wild deer which gather in herds of hundreds or thousands for their annual migrations between summer and winter quarters. Reindeer differ from other deer in that both males and females grow antlers.

The curse of the lost idol

Back in her cabin, Annie tried to piece together the clues she had gathered. But they didn't make sense at all and thinking about them gave her brain ache. Then a brilliant thought struck her. The photos! Perhaps they would help.

Annie picked out one of the photos taken just after the idol vanished. Around the empty stone block were four sets of fresh footprints.

Annie's brain started to work at 'double speed'.

Whoever took the idol must have been near the block — close enough to lift the idol off it. So one set of footprints must belong to the thief.

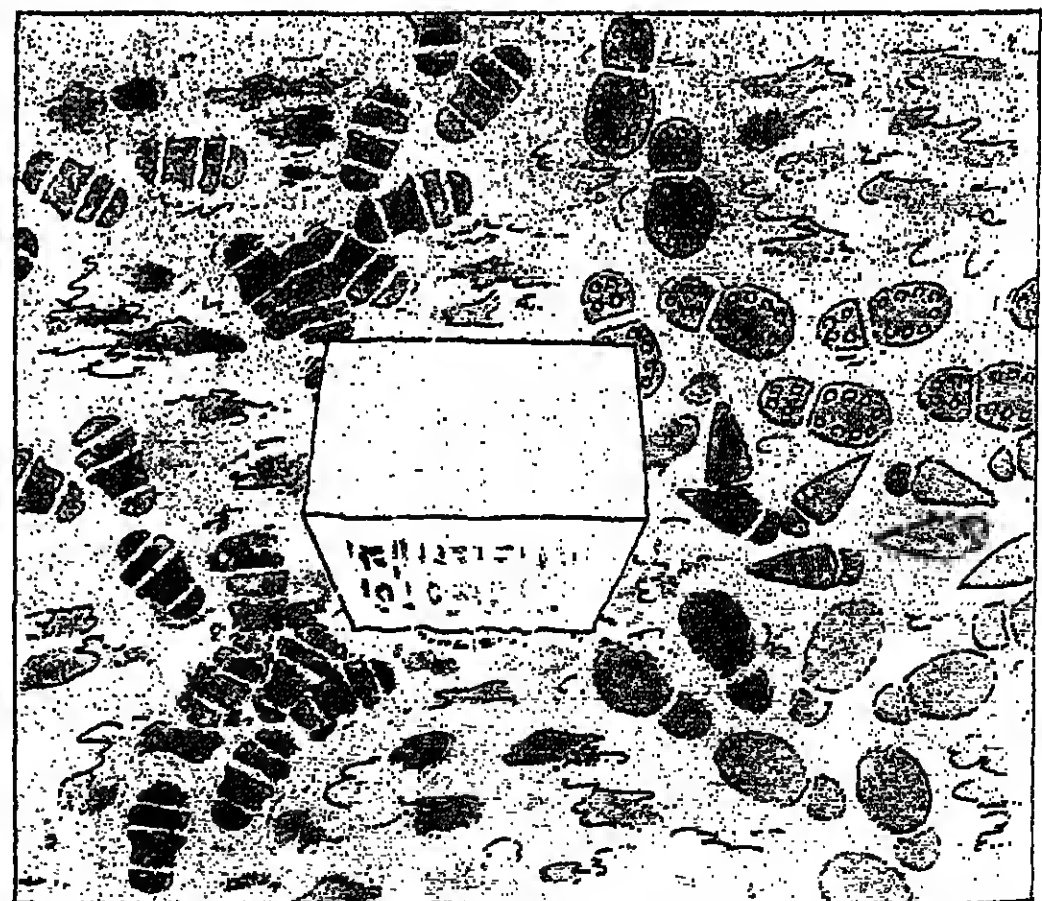
Annie was very impressed by her brilliant bit of brain work. But how could she discover whose footprints they were? She worked out an ingenious plan.

After supper, Annie left the other passengers playing Egyptian snakes and ladders and crept along the

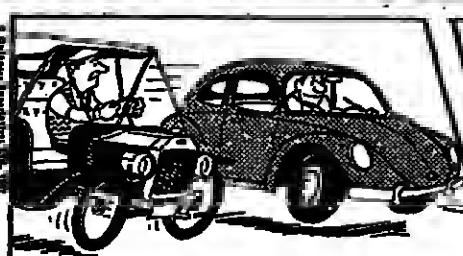
corridor towards the cabins. Just as she expected, they had all left their day shoes outside their doors to be cleaned. Swiftly and silently, she crept between the cabins, checking each pair of shoes against the photo she clutched in her hand.

At the end of her search, she knew that at last she was close to finding the thief.

Whose shoes made the prints?

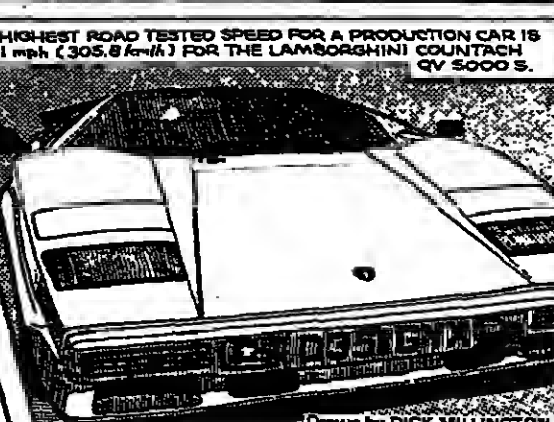


Factfile FROM THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS

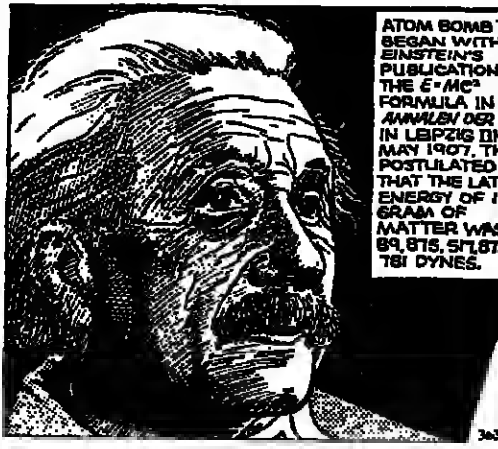


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ATOMIC BOMB THEORY BEGAN WITH EINSTEIN'S PUBLICATION OF THE E-M-C² FORMULA IN 1905. IN 1945, THIS POSTULATED THAT THE LATENT ENERGY OF 1 GRAM OF MATTER WAS 89,875,510,736,000 DYNES.

How...

How truffles are found

The truffle is a strange fungus that grows from 5 to 10 centimetres below the ground. It can only be located by the peculiar smell it gives out and the best way to find it is to use a pig or a dog which has been trained in truffle hunting.

The dog or pig is taken to the place on a lead. As soon as it smells a truffle the animal is released and runs to the spot. The pig digs the truffle up with its nose; the dog uses its paws. The animals are rewarded with something to eat.

Some truffles are as big as a clenched fist but others are much smaller. There are two main types of truffle: the black and the white. The white truffle is much more sought after for its pungent and penetrating taste. It is a pale, dirty yellow in colour.



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TERRY TRUBBLE'S TRAINERS



DEVILLA'S STILETTOS



DRUSILLA'S FLIP-FLOPS



SAM SCOOPS SNEAKERS



ANNIE'S BASEBALL BOOTS



LUIGI MACARONI'S WINKLE PICKERS

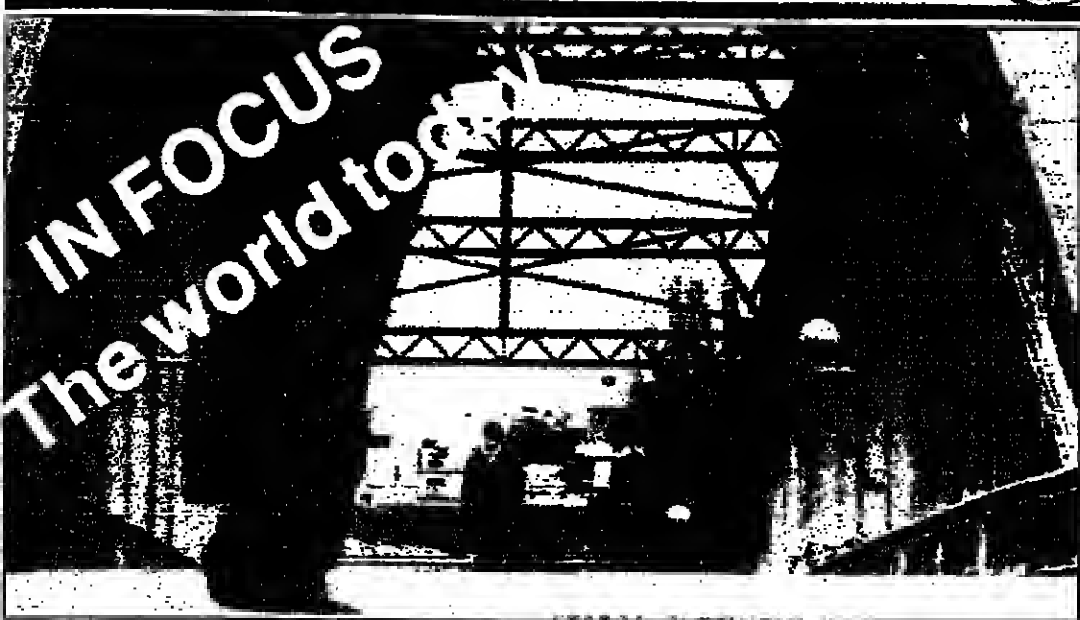


HARRIET'S SPIKEY BOOTS



DR BOFFIN'S FROGUES

Answer: The footprints in the sand were made by Professor Pott, Luigi Macaroni, Sam Scoop and Dr Boffin. This means that one of these four is the thief.



PEDESTRIANS walk across the footbridge in Paris where a West German diplomat Siegfried Wielepspauz was fatally wounded in the early hours of the morning yesterday. A letter with the name of the Kurdistan Liberation Movement (MLK) was found on the body according to police sources. (Reuters wirephoto)



POPE JOHN Paul II served dinner to a group of about 130 homeless men and women on Sunday becoming the first pope in modern times to sit down and eat with the poor inside the Vatican. (Reuters wirephoto)



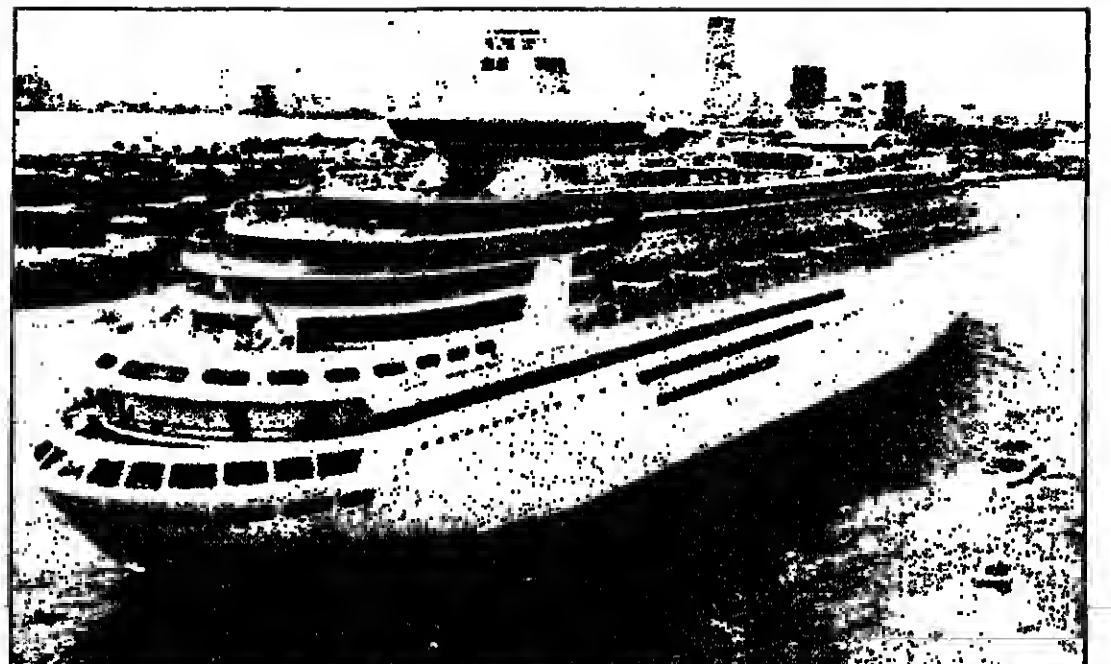
PALESTINIAN mourners raise the corpse of a child killed yesterday in an Israeli air raid on Palestinian and Lebanese targets in south Lebanon. At least 19 people, including seven children, were reported killed in the first Israeli attack this year. (Reuters wirephoto)



AMERICAN actor Dustin Hoffman poses with his daughters Jenna, aged 17, and Becky, aged four, at Heathrow Airport on Sunday. Hoffman, who has a home in London, was on his way back to New York after spending the New Year holiday in London. (Reuters wirephoto)



A PALESTINIAN woman in the Jabalya refugee camp stands in a line yesterday as she and other women wait to receive food from a United Nations Relief and Works Agency distribution centre. The Gaza Strip, a narrow strip of land between Israel and Egypt, contains a total population of 650,000 of which 450,000 live in eight refugee camps. The strip is 340 square kilometres in area. (Reuters wirephoto)



THE Sovereign of the Seas, the world's largest ship, arrives at the Port of Miami on Sunday accompanied by a flotilla of boats after crossing the Atlantic from France. The 74,000 ton, 874 foot ship can carry up to 2,690 passengers. (Reuters wirephoto)



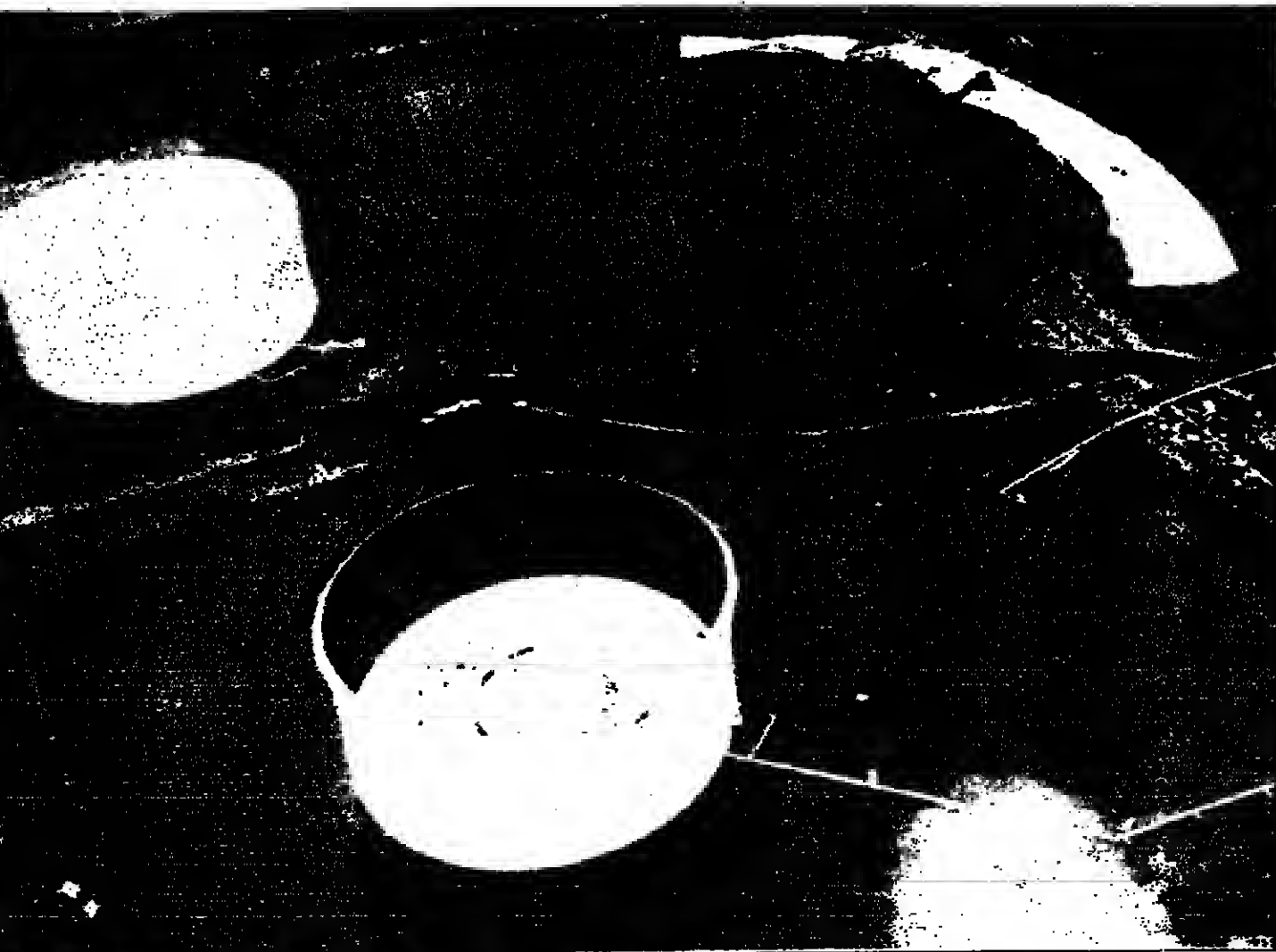
TIM SERTICH finds a unique way of introducing his 19-month old daughter Rachel to the joys of skating as he pushes her around the ice on Lake of the Isles, Minnesota, on Sunday. (Reuters wirephoto)



HUNDREDS of retired soldiers of the Chinese Nationalist Army which fled to Taiwan from China in 1949 queue for grants to return home after a nationwide cash-raising drive that netted about 240 million Taiwan dollars (\$8.4 million). About 25,000 people have applied to visit China since the government eased a ban on travel to the mainland last November. (Reuters wirephoto)



HEAVY seas have driven the Cypriot freighter "Mitera Sotilla" on to the shore of this northwestern Spanish coastline. The Mitera Sotilla crew have been evacuated by helicopter and authorities said that if the storm continues, the ship could break. (Reuters wirephoto)



AN AERIAL view of an Ashland Oil Company facility located 15 miles southeast of Pittsburgh shows the remains of a diesel fuel tank that dumped 4.5 million gallons of fuel into the Monongahela River on Sunday. A 16-mile slick flowed as far as downtown Pittsburgh, halting river traffic, Coast Guard officials said. (Reuters wirephoto)



A BROKER in the Hong Kong Stock Exchange ponders over the figures after a sharp opening fall of nearly 100 points during trading yesterday following the weekend arrest of former Stock Exchange Chairman Ronald Li and two top aides. The Hang Seng Index, the main share indicator, fell to 2,206 in the first few minutes of trade. (Reuters wirephoto)



JESSIE BARCELONA, ground equipment operator at the Manila International Airport testified yesterday that he saw a soldier shoot Benigno Aquino on August 21, 1983 as the opposition leader returned from three years of self-imposed exile in the United States. (Reuters wirephoto)

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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SALMIYA, (near Indian School). Furnished room for one or two bachelors to share with water, electricity and tele. Tele. 2461373. 8 am - 1 pm. 5659062 after 2 pm. (AT4-40441-2)

FAIHA, Area 7, Street 78, House 12. One room for Indian bachelors, spinners or couple. Contact Mr. Fernandes personally, after 5 pm. (AT3-40423-3)

KUWAIT City, Al Sayer Building, 5th Floor, Room 7 (behind UTC building). Big room for a Filipino family. Tele. Rose, 4842988 ext 2486. (AT2-40411-3)

KUWAIT City, Sharq. One independent room in a 2 bedroom flat for 2 or 3 Indian bachelors from 1st February. Tele. 2445561, 5-9 pm. (AT4-40432-3)

KUWAIT City, (near Meridien Hotel) Fahad Al Salem Street. One furnished room in a 2-bedroom flat for one Indian working lady to share with an Indian family. Tele. Suresh, 2415470. (AT4-40413-3)

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SALWA, (near Kuwait English School) deluxe, CAC, new apartments comprising 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living, dining area, large kitchen and balcony. Rent KD290. Tele. 5391720, 5382783, 1-8 pm. (AT3-40425-8)

FOR SALE

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ONE drafting table, 75cmX110cm, white, adjustable top and metal sliding parallel, one rolling chair and lamp. Price KD55. Tele. 5338310 evenings. (AT3-40435-3)

Boats

STUART Stevens, 21ft. with cabin, HP370 (jet) red/white colour, in excellent condition. Tele. Ninoo William, 2431375, 9 am - 6 pm. (AT3-40430-3)

JOHNSON, 23ft. HP175, with full accessories. KD4700. Tele. 4738318 morning, 2631280 evening. (AT3-40404-3)

Cars

HOLDEN 1978 model, manual, four doors, beige colour, owned by a lady in good condition. KD250. Tele. 2447227. (AT3-40422-2)

MITSUBISHI L300, 85 model, 7 seater bus, white, AC, new tyres, registered upto December 1988. In good condition. KD 1300, ono. Tele. Waris, 4749011 ext 300, 8 am - 1 pm. (AT4-40434-2)

MITSUBISHI Lancer F, 1.4 litre G.F.L. 1984, 4 doors, automatic, beige, 91000 kms, good AC. In very good condition. KD 720. Tele. Gibson, 5644077, after 1 pm. (AT4-40445-2)

Miscellaneous

TWO bedroom flat with telephone, available in Farwaniya from 1st February. Freezer, television, washing machine, AC and furniture for sale. Tele. 4718542, 5387718, 2459035. (AT4-40446-3)

COMPLETE set of quality furniture and electrical items of two bedroom flat for sale. All are in very good condition. Tele. Saeed, 3919007. (AT4-40426-3)

SOFA set, dining room furniture, TV, video, fridge, washing machine, dryer, freezer, oven and other household items. Tele. Nimer, 2610025, after 3 pm. (AT4-40440-3)

HARLEY Davidson motorcycle, model 1981, (Wide Glide Flame), 1340cc, in very good condition, insured for one year. Tele. Tarek, 2435892 res, 2443186 off. (AT4-40453-3)

NAME CHANGE

I, Vallathkothipillil Narayanan Kutty, hereby announce that my name will be known as Vallathkothipillil Narayanan Kutty Nandan Menon. (AT4-40454-1)

I, Mary Irene Nora Sequeira, holder of Indian passport No. S 216899 hereby wish to change my name to Thureya Sequeira. (AT2-40414-3)

I, Hozema Norman Gadiwala, holder of Indian passport No. V 940594, hereby change my name to Khozema Norman Gadiwala. (AT2-40443-2)

MISCELLANEOUS

MAID, Eliza, who applied for a job on 31.12.87. Please call again. Tele. 5313724. (AT4-40444-3)

SITUATIONS

Vacant

MAID required to live-in. Reasonable terms and conditions. Tele. 2412722, 8.30 am - 12.30 pm, 4 - 6.30 pm. (AT2-AJ-3)

MAID required for an American family to live-in. Must read and write English, have references and a transferable visa. Tele. 2439817, after 8 pm. (AT3-40427-3)

Wanted

MAID Filipino, Experienced with children. Prefers to work for American, British, European or Australian family with transferable visa. Full-time. Tele. 4897610. (AT3-40433-3)

ACCOUNTANT, Indian with 25 yrs experience including 12 years in Kuwait (specialty in Airlines accounts) with a transferable residence seeks employment. Tel. 5316379 - 8 am - 12.30 pm and 4.30 - 7.30 pm. (AT2-40415-3)

PETS

PERSIAN kittens (pedigree), one male 3 female, white colour, for sale. 6 weeks old. KD 90. Tele. Monica, 3944742. (AT4-40442-3)

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PAINTING, drawing, basic and scientific, given by an experienced lady teacher. Tele. 5610484, 8 am - 9 pm. (AT3-40424-3)

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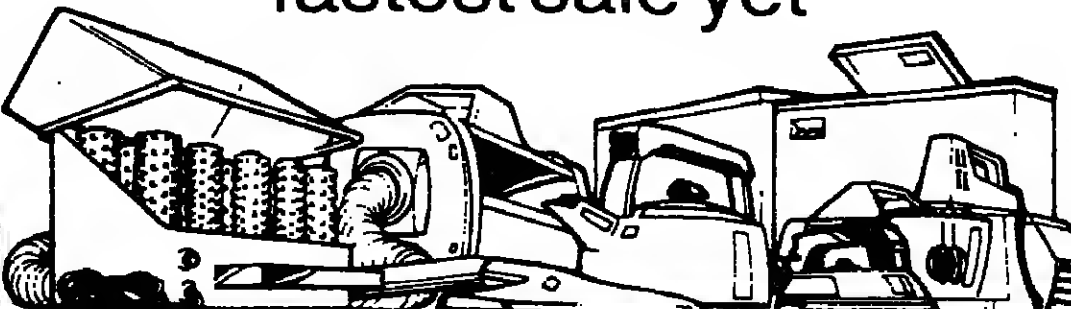
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SPORTS

OILERS OVERCOME SEAHAWKS IN OVERTIME

Vikings rout Saints in NFC playoffs

NEW ORLEANS, La., Jan. 4. (Reuters) Anthony Carter caught one touchdown pass and returned a punt 84 yards for the longest return in National Football League (NFL) playoff history, as the Minnesota Vikings upset the New Orleans Saints 44-10 yesterday in the National Football Conference (NFC) wild-card playoff game.

Backup quarterback Wade Wilson threw a pair of touchdown passes as the Vikings held the Saints to 53 yards rushing and 96 yards passing overall.

Minnesota's Darrin Nelson led the rushers with 17 carries for 73 yards.

Carter returned six punts, averaging 23.7 yards per return and also caught six passes for an additional 79 yards.

Fumbled New Orleans scored first, taking advantage of a Minnesota turnover when quarterback Tommy Kramer fumbled and Vaughn Johnson recovered on the Vikings 11. Two plays later Bobby Hebert passed ten yards to Eric Martin for the score.

The Vikings got on the board at 6:59 of the first quarter when Chuck Nelson kicked a 42 yard field goal after a New Orleans turnover.

The Vikings blew the game open in the second quarter, outscoring the Saints 21-3 for a 31-10 halftime lead.

The only score of the third quarter was Chuck Nelson's 32 yard field goal. In the fourth



Alonzo Hishamith (32) is stopped by Seahawks' Brian Bosworth (55) in the second quarter. (Reuters wirephoto)

quarter Nelson kicked a 19-yarder and rookie D.J. Dozier ran eight yards for the final Minnesota score.

Minnesota now travels to San Francisco to play the 49ers next Saturday in the next round of the playoffs.

And in Houston, Texas, Tony Zendejas' 42-yard field goal eight minutes and five seconds into sudden death overtime gave the Houston Oilers a 23-20 victory over the Seattle Seahawks yesterday in the American Football Conference wild card playoff game.

Zendejas, who missed from 29 yards out with 1:47 seconds

remaining in regulation time, hooked the winning field goal slightly to the left but it went through the uprights.

Earlier, Zendejas kicked a 47 yard first quarter field goal and added another one from 49 yards out in the second quarter. As the first half ended, he missed from 52 yards when he hit the crossbar straight on.

When Zendejas missed with 1:47 remaining in regulation time, Houston was leading 20-13. Seattle quarterback Dave Krieg then marched his team the length of the field in just 11 plays, hitting wide receiver Steve Largent with a twelve-yard touchdown



Oilers Doug Smith dumps a cooler over Oilers' head coach Jerry Granville while he is hugging Kenny Johnson. (Reuters wirephoto)

pass with 26 seconds remaining. Norm Johnson's extra point tied the game at twenty-all and forced the overtime.

In the overtime, Seattle won the coin-toss and elected to receive but were stopped. Reuben Rodriguez boomed a 48-yard punt and Houston took over on their own 16 yard line.

Oilers quarterback Warren Moon, who was named the game's Most Valuable Player, went to the ground and alternated running backs Alonzo

Standings

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	18	9	.667	—
Philadelphia	12	15	.444	6
New York	10	18	.357	8-1/2
Washington	8	19	.290	10
New Jersey	5	22	.185	13
Central Division				
Atlanta	21	7	.750	—
Detroit	18	7	.720	1
Minneapolis	15	11	.577	4-1/2
Chicago	16	12	.571	4-1/2
Indiana	14	13	.519	6
Cleveland	13	15	.464	7-1/2
Western Conference				
Midwest Division				
Dallas	18	8	.692	—
Denver	18	11	.621	1-1/2
Houston	15	12	.556	3-1/2
San Antonio	13	13	.500	5
Utah	14	15	.483	5-1/2
Sacramento	5	21	.276	11-1/2
Pacific Division				
LA Lakers	21	6	.778	—
Portland	18	11	.621	3-1/2
Seattle	16	13	.552	6
Phoenix	10	16	.385	10-1/2
LA Clippers	8	18	.300	12-1/2
Golden State	4	21	.160	16

Hawks brush aside Clippers

PORTLAND, Oregon, Jan. 4. (AP) The Los Angeles Lakers insist that they genuinely feel threatened by the Portland Trail Blazers.

The Blazers claim they're inching closer to the defending NBA champs in the Pacific Division.

But when the two tangled last night, the result was familiar: a Lakers blowout and the 23rd Los Angeles victory in the last 27 games between the two teams. Los Angeles won 98-81, their 10th straight victory.

Percentage

Portland's shooting was as icy as the weather outside Memorial Coliseum. The Blazers' 28.4 field goal percentage was an all-time franchise low and the worst in the league this season. Their 27 field goals also was a team record-low. The only other NBA game last

night was no prettier. Atlanta beat the visiting Los Angeles Clippers, 121-84.

Lakers coach Pat Riley pointed to the absence of Portland centre Steve Johnson and forward Kiki Vandeweghe, especially Johnson, whose post-up offensive game was sorely missed.

Johnson missed the game because of bone spurs on his feet, an ailment that team doctor Bob Cook says may bother him the rest of the season. Vandeweghe is out with a sore back.

The Lakers took control of the contest in the second quarter, boosted the lead to 25 in the third period, then withstood a minor Portland rally that cut the lead to 15 in the final quarter.

The loss snapped Portland's 11-game homecoming winning streak. The Blazers' 81 points

Lakers take Trail Blazers to task

was their lowest total of the season.

Hawks 121, Clippers 84. Atlanta crushed the Clippers for its fifth straight victory, with Dominique Wilkins scoring all of his 26 points and Doc Rivers passing for all of his 15 assists as the Hawks grabbed a 74-40 halftime lead.

Wilkins scored 14 points in the first quarter, including eight in a row during a 12-0 streak that put the Hawks ahead 24-9 with 5:42 left in the period. Randy Wittman scored 12 of his 18 points in the opening period, which ended with the Hawks ahead 42-22.

Los Angeles, which has lost six straight games, trailed by 14 points apiece.

Atlanta's biggest lead was 106-63 in the fourth period.

England name three new caps for rugby tournament

LONDON, Jan. 4. (AP) English Rugby Union selectors today named three new caps for the season's opening Five Nations Championship match against France in Paris on Jan. 16.

Forwards Jeff Probyn and Micky Skinner, and Harlequins centre Will Carling have been brought into the team following the final England trial staged at Twickenham last weekend when the "B" squad gave the selectors a big headache by upsetting the first-choice side 13-7.

Replaces

Probyn takes over from Gary Pearce at light beard prop for the match against the French, while Skinner replaces Gary Rees as blind side flanker. Carling teams up in midfield with Kevin Simms, the alliance that played for the defeated England senior team in Saturday's trial.

There are recalls at half back for Les Cusworth and Nigel Melville.

Cusworth won the last of his 10 caps four years ago and Melville returns to the Parc des Princes, where he last played international rugby in 1986, suffering a serious neck injury that threatened to end his career.

This pair take over from Peter Williams and Richard Harding, who were in the England side defeated in the World Cup quarter-final by Wales last June.

A sixth change from the World Cup losing team is the return of John Orwin at lock. He won all his seven caps in 1985.

Probyn, on the fringe of selection for some years, said France was "one of the top teams in the world. I've always enjoyed playing in matches against French sides as it can be fast and exciting stuff," he said.

"It's a golden opportunity and if we can all do well in this match we'll really have something to build on."

Team

Jon Webb (Bristol); Mike Harrison (Wakefield, capt); Will Carling (Durham University and Harlequins); Kevin Simms (Wasps); Rory Underwood (Leicester); Les Cusworth (Leicester); Nigel Melville (Wasps); Paul Rendall (Wasps); Brian Moore (Nottingham); Jeff Probyn (Wasps); John Orwin (Bedford); Wade Dooley (Fylde); Mick Skinner (Harlequins); Dean Richards (Leicester); Peter Winterbottom (Headingly).

Austrian coach denies reports

INNSBRUCK, Austria, Jan. 4. (UPI) Paul Raymond, 44, the head coach of the Austrian ski jumping team discounted reports he was about to quit the job and instead said he may stay in the position for another four years.

"If the federation wants me after my contract expires in May, I'll be happy to stay on," he said.

Think "It is not a question of money. We will talk about restructuring and reorganization which I think must be made with the programme."

England overwhelm Scotland

KUWAIT Nomads saw in the New Year with their traditional England vs Scotland match at Fintas Park on New Year's Day. Although Scotland fought spiritedly throughout the match, they were no match for an England side determined to maintain their unbeaten record this season.

Both sides started well, clearly determined to keep the game open and run the ball at every opportunity. England struck first with a try from Jones after good work from Bullus and Robinson, which Jones then converted to put the English 6-0 up.

Tries

Scotland then had their finest period of the match, taking a 12-6 lead with tries from Levitt and their skipper Wilkins, Adams converting both.

England came back strongly to tie the scores at 12-12, after Bullus, in his new role at outside centre, had determinedly broken a number of tackles to score an excellent try, which Jones converted. Just before half-time,



Bullus: played well

England struck again with a Robinson try giving them a 6-12 interval lead.

With England's captain Evans, in concert with Hill and Robinson, securing much of the loose ball, Scotland had little opportunity to get moving in the second half, and though they tackled bravely fell to an English

onslaught of four tries, two from Hill, and both Bullus and Robinson adding to their first half efforts. Jones converted one for England to run out worthy winners by 28 points to 12, and retain the Caledonian Cup.

England's next task will be to take on an Irish side in March for the Kent Cup, a trophy the Irish have not relinquished for three years. The Nomads now shift their attention back towards their rugby matters. Steve Hill, Alan Gibb, Mike Robinson, Bob Hall, Dave Bullus, Glyn Gatliff, and Con Barry are all in the Northern Gulf squad to play the Southern Gulf on Friday in Abu Dhabi. From that match a Gulf representative side will be chosen to play a British Invitation XV in Muscat later in the season. Kuwait can confidently expect to be well represented in that side.

The following weekend, the Nomads 1st XV trek once more to Abu Dhabi for a Gulf Merit Table match, whilst the 2nd XV travel to Al Ain to take on their 1st XV.

Barrios and Ditz confirm entries for road race

SANCTUARY COVE, Australia, Jan. 4. (AP) United States athletes Arturo Barrios, Nancy Ditz and Sylvia Mosqueda today confirmed their entries for the \$135,000 Sanctuary Cove 15-kilometre road race, organisers said.

The race will be held Sunday. Barrios is the United States, 15-kilometre champion and holds the second fastest time in the world for the distance.

Section

Ditz and the Mexican-born Mosqueda replace Zola Budd of Britain and Rosa Mota of Portugal in the women's section of the race.

Gidamis Shazhanga of Tanzania, Irishman John Treacy, Marc Newow of the United States and Australian Steve Moneghetti head the entries for the men's event, along with former world mile record holder John Walker of New Zealand.

Ingrid Kristiansen of Norway heads the women's field.

Gullit outshines Maradona in Italian showdown

EUROPEAN Footballer of the Year Ruud Gullit lived up to his image as the crown prince of Italian soccer on Sunday when he outshone the tired reigning 'king' Diego Maradona in AC Milan's 4-1 rout of defending champions Napoli.

Dutchman Gullit, who was declared the continent's top player in Paris last week, inspired a brilliant Milan performance in which he made one goal and scored another while Maradona, back from Buenos Aires only 24 hours earlier, was in subdued form.

Brace

With most of the major European leagues taking a mid-winter break, Gullit's match-winning performance eclipsed Mexican Hugo Sanchez's brace in Real Madrid's 2-1 win over Barcelona as the highlight of the first weekend action in 1988.

"We showed we are title-winners," said Gullit. "We put internal pressure on them — and that was the end of Napoli."

Napoli's Brazilian World Cup star Careca joined in the praise of an exciting match. "A great game," he said. "The best I've seen since I came to Italy... 90 minutes played all over the pitch without a minute's pause. Such a shame Napoli weren't in top form."

The defeat, Napoli's first of the season, came after they had made the perfect start. Careca opened the scoring after 10 minutes, but his goal only stimulated Gullit whose dazzling footwork set up Angelo Colombo for a 20th minute equaliser.

Antonio Virdis put Milan ahead four minutes later and second-half goals from Gullit and Roberto Donadoni completed the scoring.

A 'Gullit cyclone' was the verdict of Italy's sporting press.

The win lifted Milan to second, ahead of Sampdoria on goal difference, but they remain three points behind leaders Napoli who have 21 points after 13 games.

Roma slipped from second to fourth after losing 1-0 at Fiorentina while Juventus' 2-2 draw with Turin neighbours Torino, kept them in fifth place.

Juventus' Welsh striker Ian Rush claimed his first goal since November 1 to secure a draw for the Zebras after Massimo Crippa and Tullio Gritti had put Torino ahead, but it was later ruled to have been an own goal. Angelo Alessio scored Juventus' first goal.

In Spain, victories by Madrid's leading clubs Real and Atletico Madrid set up a gripping



Gullit: put in a brilliant performance

championship duel ahead in the remainder of the season, but left Barcelona's challenge in tatters.

Defending champions Real Madrid maintained a four-point lead at the top with their win over Barcelona, both goals coming from Mexican international striker Hugo Sanchez, while Atletico won 2-0 away to the Catalan city's second club Espanol.

Barcelona's goal came from a penalty scored by their West German midfielder Bernd Schuster — the first penalty against Real Madrid this season.

Paulo Futre created Atletico's goals for Julio Salinas and Antonio Perra, who converted a penalty after Futre was fouled. Futre said afterwards: "We're chasing Real. Four points are four points. But the season is long and Atletico are getting better every day."

Questions linger over stability during Games

SEOUL, South Korea, Jan. 4. (UPI) If Surfing were an Olympic event, South Koreans would surely take the gold this summer when they host the 24th Summer Olympics.

The supercharged, political atmosphere of the country was like a giant wave gaining momentum through more than a year of rioting and social upheaval that led to the first direct presidential election in nearly 17 years.

Crested

Sports officials say the wave of uncertainty that washed over South Korea's political future erected with the election of government party candidate Roh Tae-Woo, who is preparing to take power from President Chun Doo Hwan in February.

But now uncertainty lingers in the winter haze like the tear gas of riots that Olympic officials still face the same question: will the 1988 Games be disrupted by political instability. They always say no, but opposition parties are reserving judgement.

The Olympics rank as one of the nation's two most important national goals for 1988, along with the change of government, which would be the first non-violent transfer of power in modern Korean history.

With nine months to go, the capital is nearly papered over with Olympic logos and sign boards and the public relations machine is in high gear. A recent newspaper headline said the Seoul Olympic would be "the largest event in history."

Paris-Dakar racers set off along feared trail

PARIS, Jan. 4. (Reuters) Competitors in the 10th Paris-Dakar motor rally set off through shifting desert sands today along the daunting Algerian 'Forgotten Trail', billed as one of the most testing runs of the 13,000-km race.

The fifth stage of the rally, over 594 km from the desert town of El Oued to Hassi-Messoud, is the first timed special run through the untracked wilderness of the Sahara. The race includes 8,000 km of special stages.

Knock Organisers said the 585 competitors still in the event after four days would race over sand dunes for 250 km before reaching flat ground.

They said today's feared run through virgin territory would knock at least 10 per cent of drivers out of the toughest Paris-Dakar rally yet.

French favourite Patrick Zanardi, winner in 1985 and runner-up last year, was among today's competitors despite mechanical problems with his Range Rover yesterday.

But 17 of the 602 cars, trucks and motorcycles which set off from Paris on January 1 have already abandoned the 20-day trek to the Senegalese capital Dakar, on Africa's Atlantic coast.

The Sahara desert is known to take a heavy toll on drivers, and several have died in the 10-year history of the race. It is commonplace for drivers to go missing for several days in the uninhabited regions of the Algerian Sahara.

Organisers rely on many of the participants dropping out before the halfway stage, when it is still possible to return to Algiers by tarmac road.

Support Otherwise the logistics of supplying competitors, journalists and support staff in some of the poorest and least equipped countries in the world would be impossible.

Organisers said 85 per cent of the 1988 race would be through terrain that had not been raced before. The race includes several stages run in previous rallies, through Tamanrasset, Niamey, Timbuktu and Nouakchott.

Raymond bids

WATFORD, England, Jan. 4. (UPI) Paul Raymond, a millionaire tycoon who has made his fortune by selling men's sex magazines and owning striptease clubs, has reportedly bid £2 million (\$3.8 million) to buy Elton John's Watford soccer club.

Watford chairman Elton John, is studying the proposal. The English League blocked the sale of Watford to publishing magnate Robert Maxwell last month because of Maxwell's interests in three other clubs.

American skaters turn attention to domestic front

DENVER, Jan. 4. (AP) It's been a good year for Americans on the international figure skating scene. Now, they've turned their attention to the domestic front.

The US Figure Skating Championships, which began today, will serve as qualifying for next month's Olympics and the world championships in March. Most American skaters have been priming for the Nationals by dominating competitions from Japan to Hungary.

"You always look forward to the Nationals," said Debi Thomas, who will try to recapture the title she held in 1986, then lost to Jill Trenary last year. "That's especially true this year because of the upcoming Olympics."

Injuries

"I feel I have a lot to prove in the Nationals," Thomas added. "I want to be US champion again."

Thomas was bothered by a stress injury in her feet last year. It may have cost her the National title, but she skated well at the Worlds, where she was defending champion but was edged by Katarina Witt of East Germany.

Since then, she has taken a leave of absence from Stanford

University and moved to Colorado. Thomas is taking courses at the University of Colorado on a part-time basis.

At Skate Canada, where most of the top contenders for Olympic medals skated, Thomas performed flawlessly in the long programme. She trailed Canada's Elizabeth Manley heading into the freestyle, but her four-minute routine lifted her to the title.

"Nailing my programme like that was a big help for the rest of the season," Thomas said. "You need all the victories you can get on the way to the Olympics."

Caryn Kadavy, third in the world last year, tuned up with a sizzling gold-medal performance at the St. Ivel International in London. Trenary, who skated poorly at the Worlds, was a winner in Paris.

Those three are considered the favourites for the Olympic team.

"You still must go out and skate your best," Thomas said. "You want to be on a roll going into the Olympics."

Three men and three pairs will qualify for the Calgary Games, while two dance couples will make the Olympic squad.

Brian Boitano, the three-time



Debi Thomas soars as she practices her short programme. (Reuters wirephoto)

US champion, 1986 world winner and 1987 runner-up, has had a good preparatory season. He was second at Skate Canada, to world champion Brian Orser of Canada, then skated sensationally in Budapest. Boitano collected

four perfect 6.0 marks in the short programme, which includes seven required manoeuvres US skating officials said those marks are a first.

Chris Bowman was first in at Frankfurt. Danny Doran came

in second at Moscow. Paul Wiley took gold at St. Ivel, and Todd Eldredge won the world junior title.

Scott Williams also will be part of the scramble to join Boitano in Calgary.

SPORTS

Lewis beats Saceanu in three sets

AUCKLAND, Jan 4. (Reuters) New Zealander David Lewis came back from one set down to defeat Christian Saceanu of West Germany today in the first round of a Benson and Hedges tennis tournament here.

Lewis, after dropping the first set, took the next two 6-4 7-5.

The 19-year-old Saceanu, ranked 82nd in the world, tore through the first four games, breaking Lewis twice. The West German served aces in the second and fourth games and again broke in the seventh game to take the first set.

Lewis went about the second set more like the hunter than the hunted. He broke immediately in spite of a third ace from Saceanu. Firmly stroking his drives, Lewis matched his opponent for power and placement.

After clinching the second set, Lewis broke the West German's service in the first game of the third set.

Instead of hitting aces, Saceanu began to serve double faults — three in the third game when Lewis again broke service. Australian John Frawley beat New Zealand Davis Cup player Bruce Derlin 6-3 6-3.

Results
John Frawley (Australia) beat Bruce Derlin (New Zealand) 6-3 6-3; Jonas Svensson (Sweden) beat Tim Wilkinson (US) 6-2 6-0; David Lewis (New Zealand) beat Christian Saceanu (West Germany) 1-6 6-4 7-5; Todd Witsken (US) beat Paolo Cane (Italy) 6-3 6-1; Marty Davis (US) beat Damir Keretic (West Germany) 7-6 6-2 6-3; Jim Crabbe (US) beat Carl Steeb (West Germany) 6-2 7-6; Grant Connell (Canada) beat Omar Camporese (Italy) 7-5 6-4.

Graf emerges from a week of seclusion

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 4. (AP) The world's top-ranked woman tennis player, Steffi Graf, who is to compete in the Australian Open Tennis Championships next week, today emerged from a week of seclusion.

Graf, of West Germany, said her main competition in the Australian Open would be Martina Navratilova, who beat her in last year's Wimbledon and US Open finals.

Graf, the reigning French Open champion, took over from the Czech-born American Navratilova as the world's top ranked woman player last year. Graf has not played in the Australian Open for the past two years.

Arrived
Defending champion Hana Mandlikova and former world No. 1 Chris Evert are also in the field.

Graf arrived in Australia a week ago to begin practicing for the \$1.9 million tournament, which will be held at the New National Tennis Centre at Flinders Park in Melbourne from Jan 11 to 24.

Graf, who had refused to speak to reporters since her arrival, today said at a news conference that she believed the synthetic surface at the stadium would suit her better than grass, which was previously used for the Open.

"The serve bounces very high, and it is difficult to return if someone serves and volleys," she said.

Van Rensburg moves into 2nd round

SYDNEY, Australia, Jan 4. (AP) Top seed Christo van Rensburg of South Africa recovered from a slow start today to defeat Australian Johan Anderson in the first round of the New South Wales Open tennis championships at White City.

Van Rensburg, ranked 29th in the world, trailed 2-4 to Swedish-born Anderson in the first set but came back to win 7-5, 6-3 against Anderson, a semifinalist in last week's South Australian Open in Adelaide.

Comprises
Seventh-seeded Joey Rive of the United States also advanced to the second round of the \$123,400 32-draw men's event, which comprises part of the Nabisco Grand Prix.

Rive, of Florida, overcame his unfamiliarity with grass courts to defeat Englishman Stephen Shaw 7-6 (7-4), 7-6, 7-3, in a 92-minute struggle. Rive managed to save a set point in the 12th game of the second set.

Massimiliano Narducci of Italy scored the only surprise on the opening day of the men's event by ousting eighth-seeded Tom Nijssen of the Netherlands 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

CURRY OUTPOINTS AQUINO TO EARN SHOT AT CROWN

Rosi stops Thomas in 7th round to retain title

GENOA, Italy, Jan 4. (AP) Italy's Gianfranco Rosi retained the World Boxing Council super welterweight crown by knocking out challenger Duane Thomas of the United States in the seventh round today.

The 30-year-old Italian sent Thomas across the ropes and to the canvas for the count of 10, 50 seconds into the round, with an impressive combination of left and right hooks.

It was the first title defense of Rosi, who had won the crown from Mexican Lupe Aquino last Oct 2.

Bout

Rosi's next defence will be April 8 against Don Curry of the United States, who outpointed Lupe Aquino in a bout on the undercard. Matchmaker Bob Arum said the bout with Curry would be in Italy or Las Vegas.

Thomas, trying to regain the world title he had lost to Aquino in Bordeaux, France, last July, started the fight on the attack but his every move was anticipated by Rosi, who landed several jabs and precise hooks.

The 26-year-old Thomas managed to carry his best punch, the right, in the fifth and sixth rounds, but caused little damage to the world champion.



Rosi (right) lands a blow at Thomas. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rosi began the seventh round aggressively, forcing Thomas into a corner and hammered his face with a wild combination of hooks.

Thomas fell heavily across the ropes and remained unconscious for a brief time after referee John O'Connell completed the compulsory count.

"Now, I am ready to fight Curry or any other opponent," a jubilant Rosi said after the fight. "I trained hard to improve the power of my punches and

Thomas experienced it."

Rosi, bleeding from a forehead cut, said the challenger hit him hard only twice before the early conclusion of the match, scheduled to go over 12 rounds.

"I was in perfect form and his rights were not a problem."

Thomas' manager, John Steward, said "Rosi was far better than expected. He was fast and powerful. He can do extremely well against Curry. It's a fight open to any outcome."

Rosi improved his profes-



Rosi (left) rejoices after knocking out Thomas. (Reuters wirephoto)

sional record to 43-2. Thomas suffered the third defeat in an eight-year pro career also including 29 wins, 21 by knockout.

Rosi, who received \$120,000 for his voluntary defence against Thomas, said he hoped to get a richer purse for the fight against Curry.

Curry, a former world welterweight champion who will be making a second try at the title of the upper category, won a unan-

imous 12-round decision over Aquino despite a lacklustre performance.

Curry, nicknamed "The Cobra," piled up a wide advantage by landing fast left hooks and precise combinations to the body and to the head of the 25-year-old Mexican.

After the fight, Curry said he had not fought his best "because it was the light of my career, possibly my last world chance,

and I only had to think of a victory, not of a great showing."

Aquino suffered the fourth defeat of his career.

"I was breathless, unable to carry any serious punch," he said. "I am sorry for missing a world chance. It will be difficult to get another one."

Curry, of the United States, lost his welterweight title in September, 1986, to Britain's Lloyd Honeyghan.

Foerster retires from W. German team

BONN, Jan 4. (Reuters) West Germany's world-class stopper Karlheinz Foerster said today that he had decided to retire from the national team.

Foerster, 29, regarded for the best part of a decade as one of the world's best players in his position, told the West German sports agency S.I.D. he had informed West German manager Franz Beckenbauer of his decision yesterday.

Moved
"It was a tough decision to make," he said. "After all, the European Championship this year in my own country was a powerful attraction."

Foerster, who won 81 caps, has not played for his country since the 1986 World Cup final in Mexico which East Germany lost 3-2 to Argentina.

Shortly afterwards, he moved from his club Stuttgart to Olympique Marseille in France and asked not to be considered for international duty on a temporary basis while he concentrated on his new club.

But he was troubled for a long time by a virus infection and has struggled to return to the form which made him a marker capable of snuffing out the threat of most of the world's top strikers.

Beckenbauer has often said he would welcome Foerster back in his side for June's European Championship but the player said he thought the pressure of club commitments in the competitions would leave him with the risk of endangering his health if he took part.

Seemed
Foerster, who played in two World Cup finals and in West Germany's 1980 European championship-winning side, was such a fixture in the national team he had seemed certain to break Beckenbauer's own record of 103 caps.

"I could certainly have reached 104," Foerster said. "But you shouldn't try to do something like that at any cost. Sometimes you have to be more sensible."



Foerster: quits

Blokhin set to sign for Austrian club

STEYR, Austria, Jan 4. (Reuters) Oleg Blokhin, former European Footballer of the Year and World Cup striker, is set to join Austrian Second Division Vorwarts Steyr after completing his last season with Soviet club Dynamo Kiev.

Steyr chairman Alois Radspack told Reuters today: "We shall be meeting with Soviet officials in Munich on Wednesday and hope to finalise the contract, which would run for one-and-a-half years."

The Steyr official said the negotiations on the financial terms for 35-year-old Blokhin, the 1975 European Footballer of the Year, had been carried out by the team's sponsor, a furniture company.

"I am naturally privy to the terms but cannot disclose them," Radspack said.

He said that under the contract, Blokhin would play for Steyr until the end of the season and, if the team qualified for the First Division, for a further year.

Steyr were third in the Second Division at the end of the autumn stage of the season.

"Blokhin naturally wants to play in the Austrian First Division, but then so do we," Radspack said. "If with his help we make it at the end of the season, then he'd stay with us. If not, he'd move to another Austrian club."

Blokhin, who was with Dynamo Kiev for 25 years, would be the second Soviet footballer to play in Austria.

Queensland score easy win over NSW

SYDNEY, Jan 4. (Reuters) Queensland continued their march towards the Sheffield Shield cricket final with a 52-run victory over New South Wales in Brisbane today.

Queensland now have 24 points from five matches and lead Western Australia who moved into a clear second place with 18 after a three-wicket win over South Australian in Adelaide.

New South Wales succumbed with more dignity than appeared likely when they resumed at 145 for five and still needing 208 runs for an improbable win.

For a while, they had Queensland faltering when Mark Taylor and Mark Waugh produced a century partnership in 112 minutes. Having come together late on Sunday when the score was 133 for five, the pair added 105 before spinner Trevor Hohns and wicketkeeper Peter Anderson combined to snare Taylor for 71 with the last ball before lunch.

Honours
Waugh offered the only other resistance, but when he fell for 88 with the score on 271 for seven, New South Wales' chance disappeared.

Carl Rackemann took the bowling honours for Queensland with 4-54 while Ian Botham finished with 3-61.

In Adelaide, Western Australia beat South Australia by three wickets. South Australia were all out for 328 in their second innings leaving Western Australia needing 249 to win. They reached the target by hitting 250 for seven.

Johan Cruyff

AMSTERDAM, Jan 4. (Reuters) Johan Cruyff has offered his resignation as manager of Ajax Amsterdam, the Dutch news agency ANP said today.

The report said he had told the players of his decision but had not said whether he had accepted an offer from another club.

Violence threatens future of world's most popular sport

ZURICH, Jan 4. (Reuters) Soccer violence, the phenomenon once described as the "English disease", has spread through the body of European and world football at such a rate it has become a threat to the future of the world's most popular sport.

On and off the pitch, acts of hooliganism have continued to escalate since the first serious outbreaks of trouble in the late 1970s.

Destruction and injury through hooliganism has particularly plagued Europe, where the 1990 World Cup finals will be held in Italy.

Spectre
The International Football Federation (Fifa) last month staged the World Cup qualifying draw in showstyle with popular entertainment laid on for a world-wide television audience.

But behind the facade lay a fear that soccer's glamour days could be numbered because of declining interest in a sport still fighting to shake off the spectre of continuing hooliganism in the aftermath of the 1985 Heysel stadium tragedy in Brussels.

That night 39 people died as a result of a major crowd disturbance, before the European Cup final between Italy's Juventus and Liverpool of England.

Fifa has recognised the severity of the problem. Indeed, general secretary Joseph Blatter believes Fifa's planned seating and security measures for the 1990 World Cup finals will make the event the safest international tournament ever held.

But, as the catalogue of violence in Europe this season reveals, the sport's ruling body can do little to confront the problem at club level.

Players and referees have been attacked, coaches vandalised and stoned, tear gas bombs exploded, dozens injured and hundreds arrested.

In Britain violence has struck both on and off the pitch.

Four players were charged with criminal offences after a violent Glasgow derby match between Rangers and Celtic, in which three players were sent off. In another Scottish match 40 people were taken to hospital and 200 treated at the ground after a CS gas canister was thrown into the crowd.

The following month nationalist hostility surfaced when fans of the Lithuanian team Zhalgrinis clashed with Ciska Moscow supporters in Vilnius. There were 18 arrests.

Psychologists and sociologists say hooliganism is a problem for society at large and not just soccer. But finding the answer is not as simple as identifying the symptoms.



● The Dunhill Bridge yearly championship ended at Messiah Beach this week. A large number of bridge players participated in this championship, which lasted over 17 weeks. The final results were: 1. Al Sayed 57.5 points; 2. S. Basyouni 55.5 points; 3. Dr R. Senkara 54 points; 4. Dr B. Adel 53.5 points; 5. M. Khoushki 50 points; 6. B. Desmoud 50 points. Above: the winners with their prizes.

Americans to benefit from re-grading of tourneys

LONDON, Jan 4. (AP) American golfers are expected to feel the benefit of a re-grading of the tournaments that decide the Sony rankings, the sponsors announced today.

Since the rankings were launched almost two years ago they have gained international recognition. But an advisory committee set up to monitor the system has suggested several refinements, including the up-grading of six tournaments on the US circuit.

These changes, which come into effect immediately, have been approved by the championship committee of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club at St. Andrews, who sanction the rankings and use them to decide some exemptions for such tournaments as the British Open championship.

Below
The six up-graded US tournaments, which include the American Tourname Players' Championship, the Memorial Tournament and the World Series, will be second ranked and below only the world's four majors, the US Masters, the Open and PGA Championships and the British Open.

This has had the effect of slightly downgrading all other events in Britain and Europe and probably will mean more Americans appearing higher in the ranking system. At present the US has only four in the top 10 and Curtis Strange is its highest placed at number five, behind Australia's Greg Norman, Severiano Ballesteros of Spain, Bernhard Langer of West Germany and Britain's Sandy Lyle. Europe's top money winner, Welshman Ian Woosnam, is number six.

A new grade six will also be introduced into the rankings to take account of more minor and regional events, Sony said. There will be an increase in the depth of field to which points will be awarded and the system of assessing the strength of a tournament's field will also slightly altered.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Golden Shoe

BRUSSELS, Jan 4. (UPI) KV Mechelen goalkeeper Michel Preud'Homme was awarded the '1987 Golden Shoe' award as the best Belgian player of the year today.

Zola Budd

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 4. (UPI) South African-born Zola Budd said today she would run for Britain if selected for the World Cross Country Championships in Auckland on March 26.

Nigerian player

BRUSSELS, Jan 4. (UPI) Nigerian international Christopher Adedeji, 19, has joined Belgian First Division soccer club Molenbeek on a six-month contract, a club official said today.

NHL games

NEW YORK, Jan 4. (Reuters) Results of National Hockey League (NHL) games played yesterday: (only games scheduled)
Buffalo Sabres 2 Quebec Nordiques 1
Detroit Red Wings 5 Winnipeg Jets 4
Calgary Flames 5 Chicago Black Hawks 3

1994 bid

CARDIFF, Wales, Jan 4. (UPI) Wales, which is bidding to host the 1994 Commonwealth Games, received a boost today when the local television station presented to the committee putting together the 1994 bid. The venue of the Games will be announced during the Olympic Games in Seoul later this year.

Seoul Games

FRANKFURT, West Germany, Jan 4. (Reuters) The President of the Soviet National Olympic Committee said today that his country did not intend to boycott the Seoul Olympic Games which start in September.

Bridge

RESULTS of the SAS Bridge Club came played on Sunday:
1. Nabil Akel & Laila Murtawate
2. Jamila Akel & Camilla Gairgis
3. Margaret Maynard & Daphne El Saad
Results of the Sheraton Bridge played on Wednesday:
N/S
1. Adly Tiab & Sherin Basyouni
2. Ignace Meouchi & Marcel Zanzani
3. Mr & Mrs Farah
E/W
1. Aly Inam & Ekram Akkasi
2. Frankel & Richard
3. S. Aurora & Bhatti

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